

How to mount and access Ext4 partitions on Mac

Mac does not support Ext4 file system. If you plug in a hard drive, Mac won't recognize it. Fortunately, there are several ways to handle this situation.

If you work with Linux, you may have one or two formatted hard drives with Ext4 or a related file system. Assuming you only work with Linux, that's not the problem. When you need to access the data from that Ext4 file system on another operating system, everything is really starting.

For example, Mac does not support Ext4 file system. If you plug in a hard drive, Mac won't recognize it. Fortunately, there are several ways to handle this situation.

Temporary options: Use VM

If you only need to read a few files and don't want to choose a more permanent solution, there is an easy method. Just install the Ubuntu version or any Linux distribution you choose, in a virtual machine like VirtualBox, then mount the hard drive like any other device and read it.

Installing VirtualBox is quite simple and if you have an Ext4 formatted hard drive, you may be familiar with installing Linux. If not, read on for other options.

Add Ext4 support for macOS

If you regularly use Ext4 formatted drives and / or need to copy multiple files from there to the macOS drive, you need a better option. You need to install some software, namely **osxfuse** and **ext4fuse**. The easiest way to install them is to use **Homebrew**. If you need help installing Homebrew, follow **TipsMake.com**'s instructions in: Instructions for installing software with Homebrew on macOS X or How to use Homebrew to install software on Linux and Windows.

After Homebrew is installed (or if it is already installed), run the following command:

```
brew cask install osxfuse brew install ext4fuse
```

```
==> Renamed Formulae
gnatsd -> nats-server
==> Deleted Formulae
compose2kube      guile@2.0      swig@3.04      whirr
dsd                scala@2.10     varnish@4

==> Caveats
To install and/or use osxfuse you may need to enable its kernel extension in:
  System Preferences -> Security & Privacy -> General
For more information refer to vendor documentation or this Apple Technical Note:
https://developer.apple.com/library/content/technotes/tn2459/\_index.html
You must reboot for the installation of osxfuse to take effect.
==> Satisfying dependencies
==> Downloading https://github.com/osxfuse/osxfuse/releases/download/osxfuse-3.9
==> Downloading from https://github-production-release-asset-2e65be.s3.amazonaws.com
```

Warning

Although these tools can help you read Ext4 formatted hard drives, they are not stable. As long as you are mounting read-only drives, as what is being done in this tutorial, you will not have much risk. If you try to use these tools to write to an Ext4 drive, you may lose data.

If you need to move files back and forth on a shared drive with Linux, this method is not recommended. Instead, use another file system like ExFAT or try the commercial option listed below.

Mount Ext4 drive on macOS


After installing the Ext4 support software, you now need to determine the hard drive you want to mount. To do this, run the following command:

```
diskutil list
```

Save the partition ID (will look like ' / **dev** / **disk3s1** '). Then, run the following command to mount the hard drive:

```
sudo ext4fuse /dev/disk3s1 ~/tmp/MY_DISK_PARTITION -o allow_other
```

MY_DISK above can be any name you choose. Now, navigate to the '**tmp**' directory in the Finder and you will see the contents of the partition listed. If your drive has multiple partitions, you can mount them using the same steps as above. Just make sure to use different directory names to mount them.

```
➔ ~ sudo ext4fuse /dev/disk3s1 ~/tmp/external_drive -o allow_other

```

Third option: Use paid software

If you really need read / write access and are willing to pay a fee, Paragon Software may have a suitable option for you. This company offers ExtFS software, which is guaranteed to be safe and fast, for Mac. The company

even said that their software can fix Ext4 and other file systems.



The article has not yet tested this software, so it is not certain whether it works as well as what it has promised. Paragon Software offers a free trial version, but to be safe, you should back up your hard drive first, in case there is a problem. If you want to buy software, it is available for \$ 39.95 (920,000VND).

Although reading Ext4 format on macOS is no longer an impossible task, it is frustrating when Apple does not support this format. Since Apple is still busy focusing on its own technologies, users do not expect change in this issue in the near future. Currently, companies like Paragon Software and the open source community are actively offering solutions to this problem.

Ext4 is also not fully supported on Windows at the present time. Due to the enhancement of Linux integration into Windows, this has finally been changed. Refer to the article: [How to access Linux partitions on Windows?](#) For more details.

Hope you are successful.

You finished reading the article "**How to mount and access Ext4 partitions on Mac**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.