

Simulate a Storage System Using an ISO File

An ISO File (*or ISO Image*) is a single file exact copy (*image*) of a CD or DVD. The image can be used to regenerate (*burn*) the original optical disc.

As part of **Class 5**, I needed to generate two collections of folders which were then used to demonstrate the use of folders to represent real life physical storage systems. The first represented an atlas (*of parts of the USA only*) while the second portrayed a house and some of its contents.

The ISO image of the flash drive can be used to set up a **Virtual Flash Drive** for use in **Class 5** examples. The following steps make no assumptions about what applications you already have open. Read through the steps *before* you begin so you won't be opening and closing applications needlessly:

Step 1) Open your favorite *web browser* (such as: Edge, Chrome, Safari or Firefox). It is the *application* that lets you **browse** the information on the 'world wide web'.

Step 2) Near the top of the window that opens, you will find a text box that may have a search symbol (*magnifying lens*), or a line beginning with 'HTTP:' or 'HTTPS'. Select this box and type:
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Step 3) In the left column of the window that opens, find the button Labeled "**Tips & Shortcuts**", then **select** it.

Step 4) On the Tips and Shortcuts page, under the **ISOs** heading, locate the "**Class 5 Flash-Drive.ISO**" link and **select** it. This will start the download of the 'ISO' file to your computer.

Some people have changed settings on their favorite *browser* to: "**Always ask where to put the downloaded file**". Tell these browsers just to put the file in the Downloads **folder** by performing **Step 5** once before selecting **Save** (*the download*), then again before continuing with **Step 6**.

Step 5) Open your *file manager* (Win 10 and 11: **Windows File Explorer**; on a Mac, use **Finder**) and in the navigation pane (*left pane*) **select** the

Downloads folder **name**.

Step 6) In the **content** pane (*right pane*) locate and **menu select** the **Flash-Drive.ISO** file. If you use Windows 10, move your **cursor** to 'Open with', then **select** 'Windows Explorer'. For Windows 11, **select** 'Mount'. On a Mac, **select** *DiskImageMounter.app*.

This will open a **Virtual Flash Drive** for use in **Class 5** examples. The title of the 'drive' will probably include both 'DVD' and 'Flash-Drive'. Like all other storage devices the operating system finds, it will assign a letter and colon in the order found.

Step 7) Once you have the **Virtual Flash Drive** 'mounted', every time you open the file manager (*in Windows 10 and 11, Windows File Explorer, the file folder icon on your task bar*), you will see **Flash-Drive** as a choice in the navigation pane (*left pane*). To **remove** the choice, as with any other flash drive, simply **menu select** the **title** and **select** 'Eject'.