

# HOWTO: Persuade Recent Ubuntu Releases to Recognise a Floppy Drive

## Introduction

For reasons best known to themselves, Canonical removed the ability to recognise internal floppy drives from 10.04 and subsequent releases. This 'feature' spills across into Ubuntu-based distros e.g. Linux Mint.

Fixing this problem involves forcing your installation to use a previous version of `udisks` and modifying the `/etc/fstab` file so that your system looks for the floppy drive.

## Download:

Go to:

<http://packages.ubuntu.com/lucid/udisks>

Scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on `amd64` or `i386` as appropriate for your system to download the required version of the `udisks` package. For Intel systems (which I will assume from now on) this is:

```
udisks_1.0.1-1build1_i386.deb
```

Choose a mirror site and click on it. My machine then politely asks me what I want to do with the file – Open or Save. Select Save and the file will be downloaded to your preselected folder.

## Install:

Open a terminal window and type `cd` followed by the path to the location of the downloaded file – usually `~/Desktop` or `~/Downloads`.

*BTW – `~/` is short for `/home/[your login name]`*

In the terminal window, type:

```
sudo dpkg -i udisks_1.0.0-1build1_i386.deb
```

Enter your password when asked in order to allow `sudo` to work.

*If your helpful machine offers to use `GDebi` – don't let it, as it'll only refuse to proceed later on because the version you are trying to install is older than the one currently installed. Using `dpkg` with `-i` forces the change.*

## Modify fstab:

In the terminal window, type:

```
sudo cp -p /etc/fstab /etc/fstab.old
sudo gedit /etc/fstab
```

In the `gedit` window, add this new line at the end of the `/etc/fstab` text if it's not in the text already:

```
/dev/fd0 /media/floppy auto rw,noauto,user,exec 0 0
```

Don't hit return at the end of the line. Save and close.

Now type in the terminal window:

```
sudo mount -a
```

This brings the new line that you've put into `/etc/fstab` into play.

*Places > Floppy should now open a file manager window showing what's on the disk in the floppy drive.*

**WARNING – Update Manager and Synaptic will update `udisks` to the current (non-working) version unless you untick the `udisks` entry in their list of available updates EVERY TIME.**