

BBS On A Stick! V2.4L - Lt Kernal/Debian/Ubuntu Version!!!

A Wrong Number Family Production!!

Updated: 8/1/2026

Preface:

I have been doing my BBS on a stick project now since the release of Image BBS 2.0 in December of 2018. That first version was built on CMD FD4000 disks, I released another version of it later where all of the BBS files were located in different partitions of the first Disk. It worked really nice as that left 3 extra disks to use for the message base and file libraries. Pretty much 12 Megs of storage space for them. After several months, I had to pull the project from being downloaded, mainly due to configuration issues people were having with the way I had set up the config files and the boot files being called. I wasn't going to do another one, but decided to do it when we released 3.0 2 years later, this was met with great applause, only to be pulled again because people couldn't figure out that I was using the CMD Hard Drive emulation WITHOUT the ROMS included basically making the stick project useless unless you already owned the ROMS or you downloaded them from some unsavory source.

Back in March, I finished putting together a Image PFile disk with some brand-new files I had been working on for some time. I was talked into at the time doing another stick project, except this time using the built in Lt Kernal emulation in Vice. I went once again with the Windows setup of Vice.

Between the PFile disk and BBS On A Stick project, I had a "Release Party" on CIA Amiga BBS (ciaamiga.org:6400) and many people showed up for it, to be honest, I never thought it would meet that type of success. Since that time, it has been downloaded probably a thousand times from different sources. Recently, a good friend in New Mexico was rebuilding his BBS in a Virtual Machine on Proxmox, he was having issues with the BBS losing time, we tried everything to get the sound card passed through so Vice would keep better time. Nothing worked. Finally, I said let's try Linux! I have been running 5 instances of Image BBS in Debian 11 Virtual Machines on Proxmox now for probably a year. The problem? Installing Vice from source on Linux is a pain. Yes, you can just do a `sudo apt install vice` but you will not get the latest version OR for that matter which was the problem in his case, needing an older version because Image works perfect with network transfers. So, we talked and I said I would create a bash script to do everything from soup to nuts to get Image running and at the same time create a new BBS On A Stick for Debian/Ubuntu. If you run a different distro you can modify the script to work with your distro very easily just change the `sudo apt-get install's` to whatever your distro uses, and you will have to change some of the dependencies to whatever your distro calls them.

So that leads us to now, announcing BBS On A Stick v2.4L a full Image BBS run on the latest nightly of Vice with some added ACIA fixes by John Finlay (Cube Inc.) to make file transfers work much better.

Special Thanks goes to:

PalKat (Shane) – For pushing me to continue this project even when I said it was useless. For being my friend in New Mexico who I wrote the script for to install everything. And last but not least for the advertising of my files non-stop all-over social media. Follow, subscribe, join everything from 8bitboyz.com, trust me you won't be sorry.

Mtnclimber (Tim) – For hosting my release party back in March of 2023 for the last release of this BBS On A Stick Project AND my Wrong Number Family of BBS' PFile Disk. He runs his BBS on a real Amiga, and was really worried that night that if we filled up the 15 lines he had opened up for the "Release Party" his BBS would crawl to a halt. IT DID NOT!! In fact, we filled up about 12 lines with people, and the BBS ran perfectly. Call his BBS at ciaamiga.com:6400. In your New User Registration tell Tim you got the number from this project. You won't be sorry.

The many SysOp's who over the years (37 to be exact) who used the files I wrote, called my BBS', and now download this file and anything I release. From the bottom of my heart THANK YOU!!

NOTE:

*** The Image software included on this disk is not the stock Image BBS software. I have added in some changes that I feel make it easier to do some things, and fix some issues that prospective SysOp's have with the software. The changes I have made you will never notice. If you are looking for the stock Image files, you can download them on the Image 3.0 Facebook page. ***

*** Starting with this new version v2.4, I have decided to make the Stick project Email Ware. So upon login you will see a S# UNREG. Back in 1988 when Image BBS was first released the writers put serial numbers on the software to prevent piracy. I am doing this not to prevent piracy but to make it Email Ware, when you download the software email me the name of your BBS, your FQDN, and your handle. I will email you back a new ml 3.0 which will have your own serial number of this project. I will also list your BBS on a BBS List I am putting together of all the BBS on a Stick project BBS'. This software has been downloaded hundreds of times if not thousands of times, it would be nice to know just how many of them are running. Thus the Email Ware tag now.. Email me at bucko@wrgnbr.com ***

What it does:

If you are running in a Virtual machine or real hardware, and have a fresh install of Debian, all you need to do is run the bash script `vicebuilder.sh` and it will do a number of things. **NOTE:** If you run into the BBS not keeping time correctly, there are 2 things to check. First make sure you are in 60mhz mode NTSC in Vice. 2Nd, try installing Vice in GTK mode. I currently run 4 instances of Vice in Debian 13 in GTK Mode and they all keep time perfectly.

- 1) Update your Linux Install with the latest updates
- 2) Install network and all dependencies needed to install and run Vice
- 3) Build TCPSER v1.1.5 (this version works perfect with Image)
- 4) Copy TCPSER to the `/usr/local/bin` directory so it is in the path
- 5) Download the latest Vice Source code.
- 6) Copies some ACIA Fixes to the Vice src directory and rs232 directory.
- 7) `chmod` scripts to start Image in case they are not executable
- 8) Reboot the machine

After completing the reboot, you will notice that you now can access shares on your home network, this is done because just about everyone today has a home network and I felt it was a necessary option for all.

I have decided to use the SDL version of Vice because it is less resource intense then GTK3. You can install the GTK3 version just by putting a hashtag in front of 1 line and taking one away from another line (Instructions in the vicebuild script)

From that point all you need to do is run the `im3.sh` bash script file and it will automatically load tcpser, and Vice Lt Kernal Edition.

Installing BBS On A Stick In Debian/Ubuntu - From Start to Finish:

First and foremost!!!! MAKE A BACKUP OF YOUR SYSTEM!

Why? The main reason is if something screws up, you want to be able to go back to the way the system was before the install. My personal opinion?

Start on a FRESH INSTALL of DEBIAN or Ubuntu. I chose Debian because it hasn't given me any issues with Vice or TCPSER in over a year. You can choose whatever you like.

In order to run this Stick Project, you need to have a working knowledge of Linux specifically Debian/Ubuntu. If you do not, there are a few commands you need to learn to use. They are:

CD - This changes directories.

chmod +x {filename} - This makes bash scripts executable.

./{filename} - This executes files.

Do each of the following Steps in order as it will make it easier to finish. This is assuming you are working with a fresh install of Debian or Ubuntu.

- 1) Unzip the IM3L.zip file to a USB stick and insert the stick into the computer you are using.
- 2) Make sure your user has sudo access this can be done simply by typing the following: su then entering your sudo password and when you get into root sudo adduser (your username) sudo then a quick reboot.
- 3) Copy IM3 directory from your USB stick to your home directory.
- 4) CD into the IM3 directory (IE: cd IM3)
- 5) Run the bash script vicebuild.sh, depending on speed this could take up to 5 to 10 minutes (IE: ./vicebuild.sh)
- 6) Reboot if the system doesn't automatically.

NOTE: The im3.sh script is set up for xfce4 terminal. You will have to edit it to match your terminal or install xfce4 terminal with the sudo apt install xfce4-terminal command. That is your choice.

You are done with the install.

At this point all you need to do is run the im3.sh bash script file (IE: ./im3.sh) and it will automatically load TCPSER, and Vice Lt Kernal Edition.

When the Vice Commodore 64 Lt Kernal screen pops on,

Type boot 3.0 and watch Image BBS boot.

Once you get to the Configure BBS options, choose 1 and answer all questions it asks you. Remember this version of the Stick runs a Lt Kernal, the following drive assignments are needed for the BBS to run properly.

DO NOT USE ANY OTHER DRIVE ASSIGNMENTS!

System Drive	(SYS)	DR=1	8,1
Mail Drive	(MAIL)	DR=2	8,2
Etcetera Drive	(ETC)	DR=3	8,1
Directory Drive	(DIR)	DR=4	8,2
Plus File Drive	(i File)	DR=5	8,0
User Drive	(User)	DR=6	8,1

The rest of the LU's can be set up any way you want. I used LU 3 for Subs, LU 4 for UD's LU 5 for Text/RLE/CG files.. It's all up to you.

For the Clock Settings choose 1 for MANUAL. Any other option will not work if you do not have either a CMD device, or the Lt Kernal backup clock which in emulation is not available...

Then choose Swiftlink as the final question. I have pre-configured the modem so you don't have to worry about that, (**NOTE:** If the BBS does not connect when dialing in, remove the checkmark on the left side of the DSR lighbar and reset the modem by hitting 6. You can then go into IM and change the default of that flag in Flags).

That is all there is to setting up the main install.

Once you are at the waiting for call screen login and configure up your BBS via the IM configurator. I will include the docs for Image 3.0 in this zip file so read them once to familiarize yourself with Image 3.0 so everything goes smoothly. I have included the original Documentation of v3.0 in this zip file so you can see how to configure it. I can't stress enough that you **READ** the docs, it will prevent you from getting frustrated because something doesn't work as you expect.

NISSA Network:

If after you have set up the BBS you would like to join the NISSA Network and join the other Image SysOp's who are part of the network just sign on to either of the following BBS':

wn4.wrgnbr.com:3000

rtg.dyndns.biz:6428

At the main prompt of either of these BBS' just hit JN and fill out a network application. Once received X-Tec (Administrator of the Network) will get in touch with you to get you set up. At this point you can go into IM and set up the network via the M command and configure each option.

SUPPORT:

If you have issues, there are a few ways of going about getting support. The main support area for this project is the Image Forum on 8bitboyz.com, you can ask questions there and I will get back to you usually within 12 to 24 hours, Or you can contact me via feedback on any of the BBS' listed below, my Facebook group The Wrong Number Family of BBS' or via email at bucko@wrgnbr.com..

The Wrong Number][BBS	- wn2.wrgnbr.com:23	Mystic BBS
The Wrong Number][BBS	- wn3.wrgnbr.com:6400	C-Net Amiga BBS
The Wrong Number IV BBS	- wn4.wrgnbr.com:3000	Image BBS 3.0
The Wrong Number][BBS	- wn6.wrgnbr.com:6411	Image BBS v1.2

Thanks again for downloading this file. Enjoy!!

Al DeRosa