

Table of Contents

Format a hard drive with LUKS and BTRFS	2
Format the disk	2
Setup encryption	2
Make a filesystem	2
Automount on boot	3

Format a hard drive with LUKS and BTRFS

Simple mode, adding to this site to serve as reference for friends.

This guide assumes `sda` as the drive letter, and `sda1` as your partition

Format the disk

```
sudo cfdisk /dev/sda
```

- choose GPT if you have a MBR vs GPT option
- pick create, choose max size (or whatever you want)
- then write to disk

That should create /dev/sda1 as a partition.

Setup encryption

```
sudo cryptsetup luksFormat --type luks2 --cipher aes-xts-plain64 --key-size 512 --hash sha512 --iter-time 5000 --sector-size 4096 /dev/sda1
```

pick your password

the luks is like a shell/container/box around your actual filesystem.
big abstraction layer like HTTPS.

then unlock so we can create a partition in it.

```
sudo cryptsetup luksOpen /dev/sda1 foobar-hdd
```

Note ^ above is not name of disk, just what the decrypted drive name is

Make a filesystem

Then, make a filesystem. I like btrfs, but ext4 and XFS are also good options

```
sudo mkfs.btrfs -L yolo-hdd -f /dev/mapper/foobar-hdd
```

then you can mount it

```
sudo mount /dev/mapper/foobar-hdd /mnt/your-mountpoint
```

Then make a subvolume if you want

```
sudo btrfs subvolume create /mnt/your-mountpoint/@your-subvolume
```

Automount on boot

Get UUIDs

With this, do an `lsblk -f` and take note of the UUIDs. You will need it (or you can use labels, but UUID is better since you can have duplicate labels)

to automount at boot, here is my UUIDs as an example

NAME	FSTYPE	FSVER	LABEL	UUID
FS-AVAIL FS-USE% MOUNTPOINTS				
sda				
`-sda1	crypto_LUKS	2		208fae7b-ed03-48cd-a4f6-f37f9dd28732
`-hdd	btrfs		HDD	fbd95406-4a52-4fe2-b1a7-17743a037149
	991.4G	45%	/hdd	

Update crypttab to decrypt

in `/etc/crypttab`, add this disk. this does decryption

hdd	UUID=208fae7b-ed03-48cd-a4f6-f37f9dd28732	none
-----	---	------

First is the name when decrypted. The UUID is the UUID of the encrypted shell, that is the one in `sda1`

This will decrypt it, then we can mount the filesystem in the encrypted container

Add to fstab to mount

now add it to `/etc/fstab` to handle auto mounting

# /dev/sda1 LABEL=hdd		
UUID=fbd95406-4a52-4fe2-b1a7-17743a037149	/hdd	btrfs
rw,relatime,nofail,space_cache=v2,compress=zstd		

The UUID in here is the one of the filesystem, not the LUKS, so notice how it's under the `hdd` name in my `lsblk`.

You can also just use `/dev/mapper/hdd` or your decrypted name, but UUID is more predictable.

nofail will make it so if it fails to mount, your computer can still turn on (highly recommend)

From:

<https://wiki.tonytascioglu.com/> - **Tony Tascioglu Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://wiki.tonytascioglu.com/scripts/files/setting_up_luks_hard_drive

Last update: **2025-07-02 06:16**

