

Linux

For Beginners

Get started with new programming skills

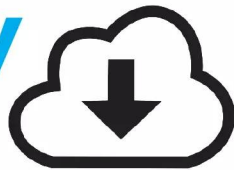
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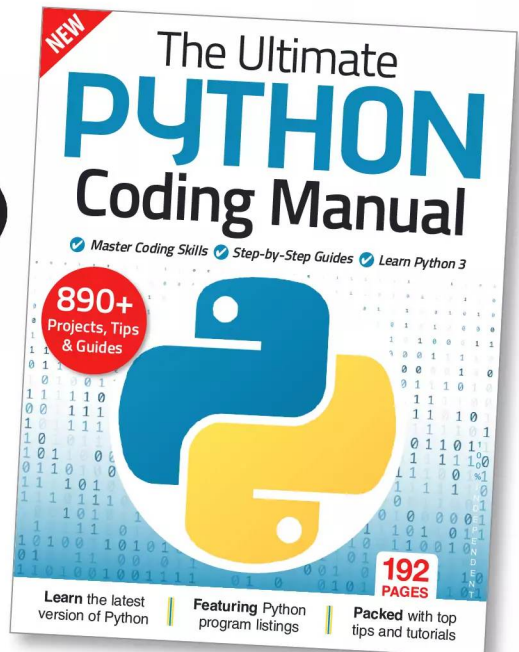


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Linux

For Beginners



Linux For Beginners is the first and only choice if you are a new adopter and want to learn everything you'll need to get started with coding and programming. This guide is crammed with helpful guides and step-by-step fully illustrated tutorials, written in plain easy to follow English. Over the pages of this new user guide you will clearly learn all you need to know about coding your own amazing apps. With this unofficial instruction manual at your side no problem will be unsolvable, no question unanswered as you learn, explore and enhance your programming skills.





Contents

6 Say Hello to Linux



- 8 Why Linux?
- 10 The Best Linux Distributions
- 12 Equipment You Will Need
- 14 Desktop Environments
- 16 Which Distro?

18 Getting Started with Linux



- 20 Creating a Linux Installer on Windows
- 22 Installing Linux on a PC
- 24 Installing a Virtual Environment
- 26 Installing Linux in a Virtual Environment

28 Getting to Know Linux

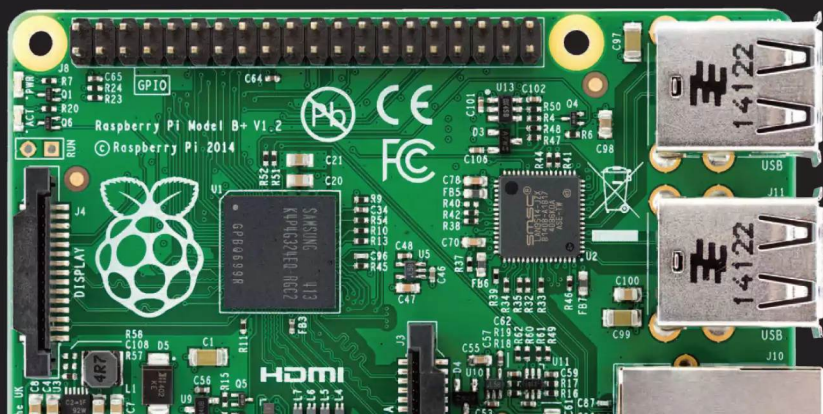


- 30 Introduction to the Cinnamon Menu
- 32 Navigating the Cinnamon Desktop
- 34 10 Things to do After Installing Linux Mint
- 36 Did you Know...Apollo 11
- 38 Creating Users
- 40 Customising the Desktop
- 42 Becoming Anonymous Online

44 Using the Terminal



- 46 Basics of the Terminal
- 48 Update Mint via the Terminal
- 50 Install Apps via the Terminal – Part 1
- 52 Install Apps via the Terminal – Part 2
- 54 Did you Know...Linux Kernel 0.01
- 56 Creating a File Using the Terminal
- 58 Creating and Removing Directories
- 60 Fun Things to do in the Terminal
- 62 More Fun Things to do in the Terminal
- 64 Linux Tips and Tricks
- 66 Did you Know...Linux and the Big Bang
- 68 Creating Bash Scripts– Part 1
- 70 Creating Bash Scripts – Part 2
- 72 Creating Bash Scripts – Part 3
- 74 Creating Bash Scripts – Part 4
- 76 Creating Bash Scripts – Part 5
- 78 Pi x Linux = The Perfect Combination
- 80 Command Line Quick Reference
- 82 A-Z of Linux Commands
- 84 Did you Know...Good enough for NASA





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"With this book, you too can become a part of the open community of Linux users. The tutorials within these pages will help you get to grips with Linux, show you how it works, what you can do with it and how you can code with it to take your Linux experience to even greater heights."





“How did you know so much about computers?”

“I didn’t, it was the first one.”

*– Admiral Grace Hopper (pioneer programmer)
when interviewed by David Letterman*



Say Hello to Linux

Why Linux? What is it? Where do I get it? Why are there so many different versions of it? Most beginners ask these, and many more, questions when starting out. It's true that Linux is an incredibly versatile and powerful operating system but where do you start? Thankfully, you can find the answers in this section.

There is so much you can do with Linux but you need to know where to start; we're here to help you out. In this section you can learn what Linux is, what a distro is and what a desktop environment is. You can also begin to explore how Linux works and how it can work for you.



Why Linux?

For many of its users, Linux means freedom. Freedom from the walled garden approach of other operating systems, freedom to change and use the OS as you please and freedom from any form of licensing or payment. There's a lot more to Linux than you may think though.

FREE AND OPEN

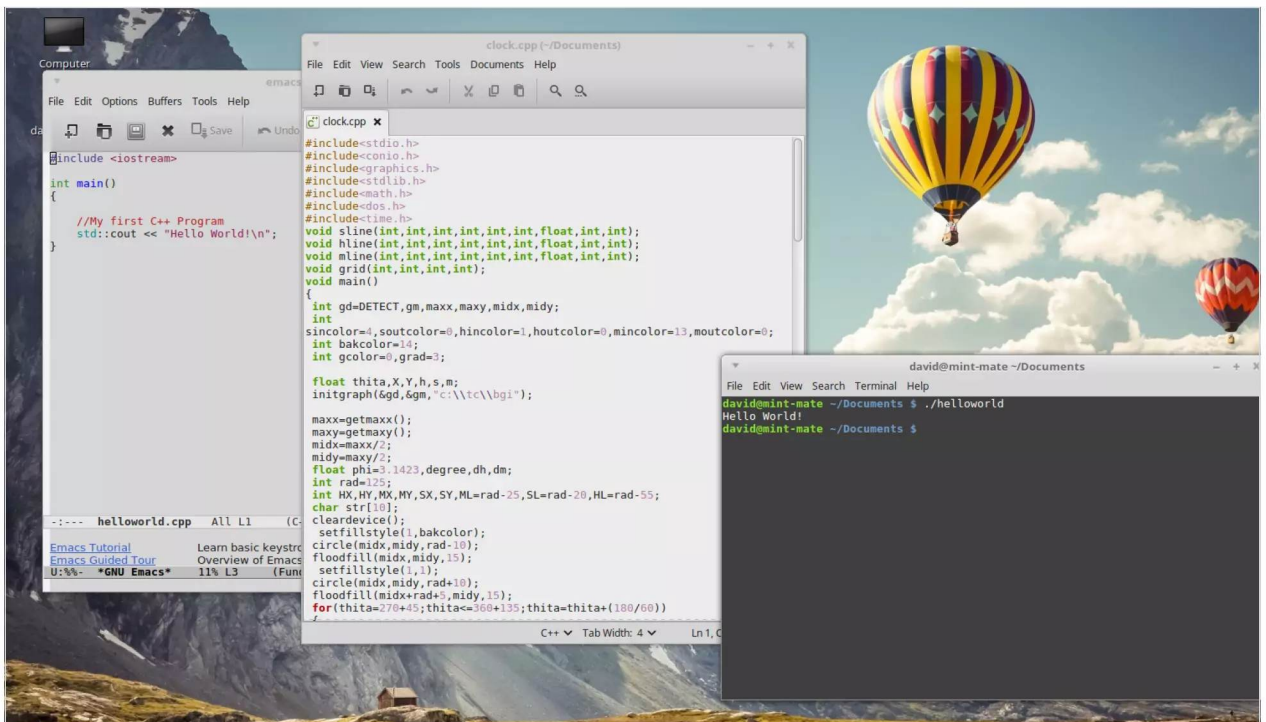
Linux is a fantastic fit for those who want something different. The efficiency of the system, the availability of applications and stability are just a few good reasons.

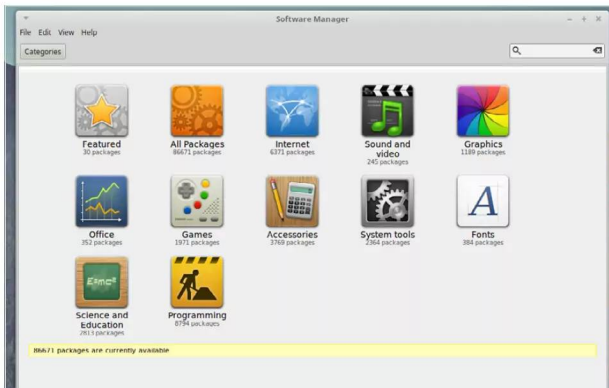
The first thing you need to know is that there is no such operating system called Linux. Linux is in fact the operating system kernel, the core component of an OS. When talking about Linux what we, and others, are referring to are one of the many distributions, or distros, that use the Linux kernel. No doubt you've heard of at least one of the current popular distros: Ubuntu, Linux Mint, Fedora, openSUSE, Debian, Raspbian, the list goes on. Each one of these distros offer something a little different for the user. While each has the Linux kernel at its core, they provide the user with a different looking desktop environment, different preloaded applications, different ways in which to update the system and get more apps installed and a slightly different look and feel throughout the entire system. However, at the centre lies Linux, which is why we say Linux.

Linux works considerably differently to Windows or macOS. It's free for a start: free to download, free to install on as many computers as you like, free to use for an unlimited amount of time and free to upgrade and extend with, equally, free programs and applications. This free to use element is one of the biggest draws for the developer. While a Windows license can cost up to £100, and a Mac considerably more, a user, be they a developer, gamer or someone who wants to put an older computer to use, can quickly download a distro and get to work in a matter of minutes.

Alongside the free to use aspect comes a level of freedom to customise and mould the system to your own uses. Each of the available distros available on the Internet have a certain 'spin',

Linux is a great operating system on which to start coding.





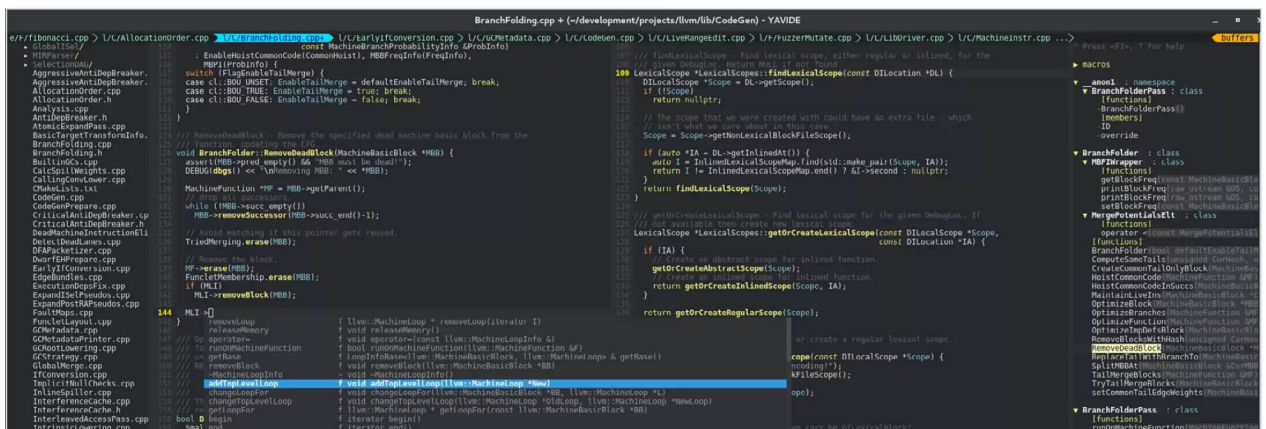
There are thousands of free packages available for programmers under Linux.

in that some offer increased security, a fancy looking desktop, a gaming specific spin, or something directed toward students. This extensibility makes Linux a more desirable platform to use, as you can quickly mould the system into a development base, including many different kinds of IDEs for the likes of Python, web development, C++, Java and so on; or create a base for online anonymity, perhaps as a Minecraft server, media centre and much more.

Another remarkable advantage for those looking to learn how to code, is that Linux comes with most of the popular coding environments built in. Both Python and C++ are preinstalled in a high percentage of Linux distros available, which means you can start to program almost as soon as you install the system and boot it up for the first time.

Generally speaking, Linux doesn't take up as many system resources as Windows or macOS; by system resources we mean memory, hard drive space and CPU load. The Linux code has been streamlined and is free from third-party 'bloatware' which hogs those systems resources. A more efficient system of course means more available resources for the coding and testing environment and the programs you eventually create. Less use of resources also means you can use Linux on older hardware that would normally struggle or even

A Linux programming environment can be as simple or as complex as you need it to be.



Each distro offers something unique to the user but all have Linux at the core.

refuse to run the latest versions of Windows or macOS; so rather than throwing away an old computer, it can be reused with a Linux distro.

It's not all about C++, Python or any of the other more popular programming languages though. Using the command line of Linux, also called the Terminal, you're able to create Shell scripts, which are programs that are designed to run from the command line and made up of scripting languages. They are used mainly to automate tasks or offer the user some form of input and output for a certain operation.

Finally, although there are many more advantages we can list, there are thousands and thousands of free programs and apps available that cover nearly every aspect of computing. Known as packages, there are (at the time of writing) over 8,700 specific programming applications just on Linux Mint alone and an incredible 62,000+ overall packages catering for everything from Amateur Radio to WWW tools.

Linux then, is a great resource and environment for programming in. It's perfectly suited for developers and is continually improving and evolving. If you're serious about getting into coding, or you just want to try something new, give Linux a try and see how it works for you.



The Best Linux Distributions

There are lots of versions of Linux available, known as Distributions. Each has a different ethos and approach. Here are five great distributions to try and where you can get them.

GOING LINUX

The installation process for most distributions is similar. You download a disk image from the website and burn it to an optical disk or create a USB Flash Drive installer. Just be careful to get the right distribution for your hardware and read the instructions carefully.

LINUX MINT

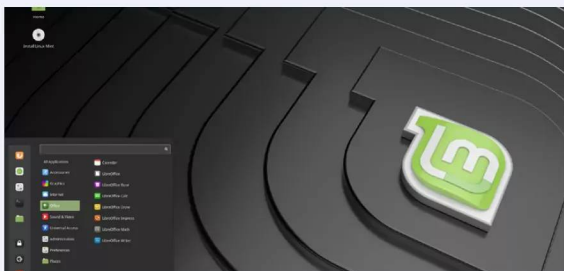
By far the most popular Linux distro (distribution) is Linux Mint. Mint began life back in 2006, as an alternative to the then most popular distro, Ubuntu. Although based on Ubuntu's Long Term Support build, Linux Mint took a different direction and offered the user a better overall experience.

Linux Mint has three main desktop versions available with each new version of the core OS it releases. This may sound confusing at first but it's quite simple. Currently, Linux Mint uses the Cinnamon Desktop Environment as its flagship model; there's MATE and Xfce models available too.

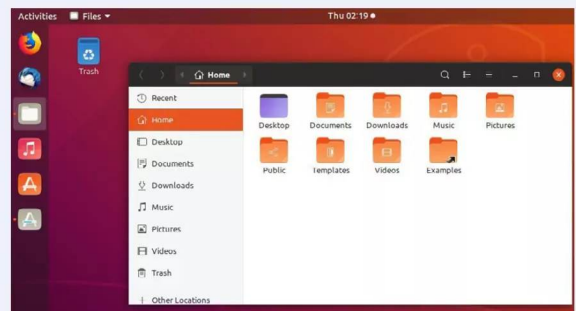
Cinnamon is a graphically rich desktop environment, MATE uses less fancy graphics, and is more stable on a wider variety of desktop systems, and Xfce is an extremely streamlined desktop environment that's built for speed and ultimate stability.

Throughout this title we'll be using the Cinnamon version; however, you can try out any of the other desktop environments as you wish. In fact, it's recommended that you do spend some time trying different environments, and even different distros, to see which suits you and your computer best.

www.linuxmint.com



UBUNTU



The second most popular distro available is Ubuntu, which is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. Ubuntu's popularity has fluctuated over its fourteen year life. At one time, it was easily the most used Linux-based operating system in the world but some wrong choices along the way with regards to its presentation, and some unfavourable, controversial elements involving privacy, sadly saw it topple from the number one spot.

That said, Ubuntu has since made amends and is slowing crawling its way back up the Linux leader board. The latest versions of the OS use the GNOME 3 desktop environment, an impressive environment, although it can be a little confusing for former Windows users and is a little heavy on system resources, especially if you're planning on installing it on an older computer.

Ubuntu, for all its faults, is a good Linux distro to start experimenting with. It's a clean interface, easy to use and install and offers the user a complete Linux experience.

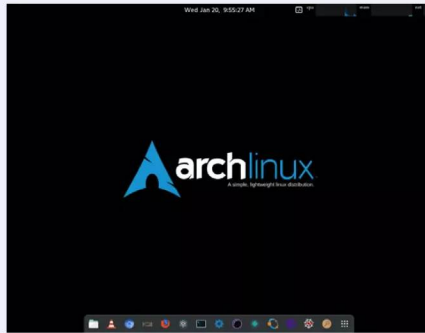
www.ubuntu.com



ARCH

Arch is one of longest running Linux distributions and forms the basis of many other versions of Linux. Why install Mint or Ubuntu when you can install Arch? Many users do exactly that but it's not ideal for beginners. Ubuntu and Mint both offer an easier installation path and come with software packages to help you get started.

Arch on the other hand, is a more 'bare bones' affair. Arch is committed to free software and its repositories contain over 50,000 apps to install, including multiple different Desktop environments, and use as you would with any other distro.



Arch is a distro for when you're more experienced with Linux. You start with nothing but the command line and from there you have to manually partition your hard drive, set where the installation files go, create a user, set the OS locale and finally install a desktop environment along with the apps you want.

The advantage though, for all this hard work, is a distro that you have created. This means your Arch distro won't come with all the unnecessary files and apps that others have preinstalled; it's custom made for you, by you.

www.archlinux.org

RASPBERRY PI DESKTOP

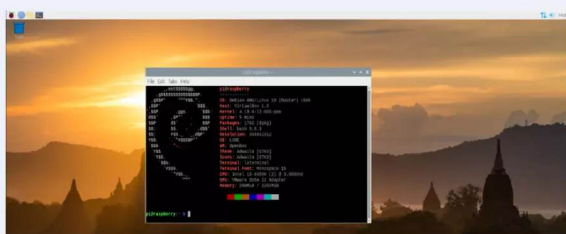
No doubt you've heard of the Raspberry Pi. It's hard not to have, as this remarkable, tiny computer has taken the technology world by storm for the last six years since it was introduced.

There are several aspects to the Raspberry Pi that make it such a sought after piece of the computing world. For one it's cheap, costing around £25 for what is essentially a fully working computer. It's small, measuring not much bigger than a credit card. You can build electronics with it, using a fully programmable interface; and it comes with Raspbian, its own custom-made, Debian-based operating system that includes an office suite alongside many different programming languages and educational resources.

Raspbian is exclusive to the Pi hardware, since the Raspberry Pi uses an ARM processor to power it. However, the Raspberry Pi Foundation has since released a PC version of Raspbian: Raspberry Pi Desktop.

Just like the Pi version, Raspberry Pi Desktop comes with the all the coding, educational and other apps you will ever need. It's quick, stable and works superbly. If you're interested in stretching your Linux experience, then this is certainly one of the top distros to consider.

www.raspberrypi.org/downloads/raspberry-pi-desktop



OPENSUSE



Most Linux distributions fall into two camps. There are ones with the latest features and technology like Ubuntu and Mint and those with few new features but rock solid reliability, like Debian.

Meanwhile, openSUSE attempts to cover both bases. OpenSUSE Leap is the rock solid system. It's developed openly by a community along with SUSE employees, who develop an enterprise-level operating system, SUSE; this powers the London Stock Exchange amongst other things. It is designed for mission critical environments where 'there is no scope for instability'. If you find all that too sensible, openSUSE Tumbleweed is a rolling release with all the latest features, and the occasional crash.

openSUSE is a highly respected Linux distribution and many of its core contributors work on the Linux Kernel, LibreOffice, Gnome and other key Linux areas. In short, openSUSE is where you'll find the pros hanging out.

www.openSUSE.org



Equipment You Will Need

The system requirements for successfully installing Linux Mint on to a PC are surprisingly low, so even a computer that's several years old will happily run this distro. However, it's worth checking you have everything in place before proceeding.

MINTY INGREDIENTS

Before we start working our way through this book, here's what you need to install and run Linux Mint. You have several choices available, so take your time and see which works best for you.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The minimum system requirements for Linux Mint are as follows:

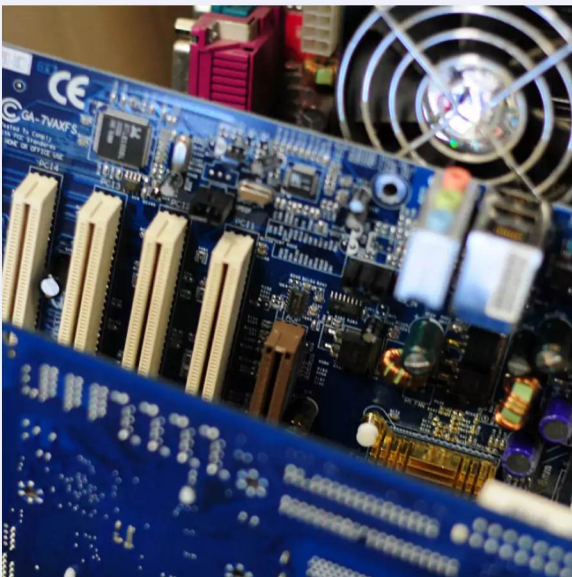
CPU – 700MHz

RAM/Memory – 512MB

Hard Drive space – 9GB (20GB recommended)

Display – 1024 x 768 resolution

Obviously the better the system you have, the better the experience will be and quicker too.



USB INSTALLATION

You can install Linux Mint onto your computer via USB or DVD. We look into each a little later on but if you're already familiar with the process, or thinking of USB and just gathering the hardware you need, then you're going to need a minimum 4GB USB flash drive to store the Linux Mint ISO.



DVD INSTALLATION

DVD installation of Linux Mint simply requires a blank DVD-R disc. Of course, you also need an optical drive (a DVD Writer drive) before you're able to transfer or burn the ISO image to the disc.



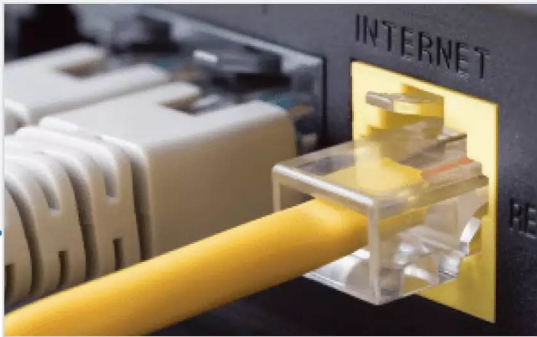


VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

Installation to a virtual environment is a favourite method of testing and using Linux distros. Linux Mint works exceedingly well when used in a virtual environment but more on that later. There are many different virtual environment apps available; however, VirtualBox, from Oracle, is one of the easiest to into. You can find the latest version at www.virtualbox.org.



VirtualBox



INTERNET CONNECTION

It goes without saying really, that an Internet connection is vital for making sure that Linux Mint is up to date with the latest updates and patches, as well as the installation of further software. Although you don't need an Internet connection to use Linux Mint, you'll miss out on a world of free software available for the distro.

MAC HARDWARE

Although Linux Mint can be installed onto a Mac, there's a school of thought that recommends Mac owners use a virtual environment, such as Virtualbox or Parallels; and why not, macOS is already a splendid operating system. If you're wanting to breathe new life into an older Mac, make sure it's an Intel CPU model and not the Power PC models. Beware though, it's not as pain free as installing on to a PC.





Desktop Environments

Linux Mint comes in several different versions, or flavours: Cinnamon, MATE and Xfce; there are 32-bit and 64-bit versions of these too. What does it all mean though and which version should you choose for your installation?

WHICH MINT?

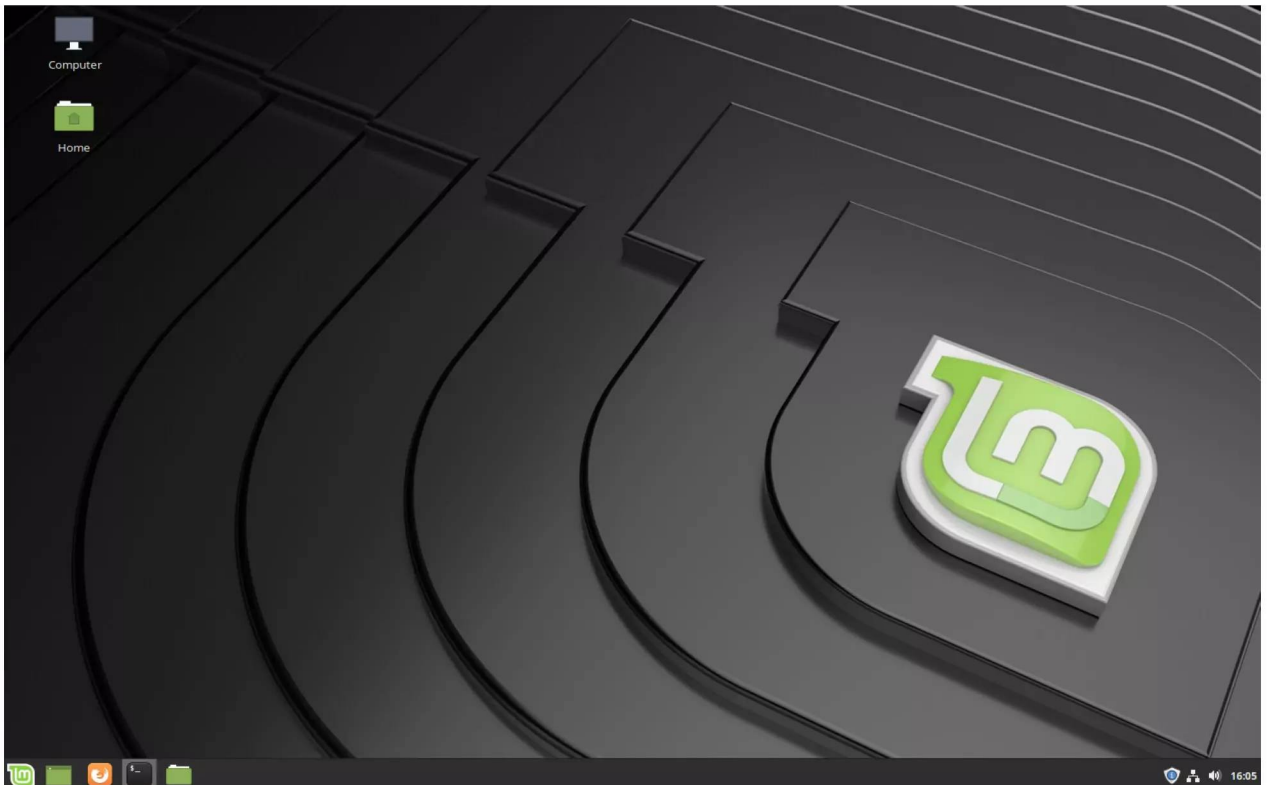
A Desktop Environment is the graphical interface which you use to interact with the core Linux system. Just as the graphical desktop for Windows 10 is also called Fluent Design.

Linux Mint offers the user a choice of versions of the distro: Cinnamon, MATE and Xfce. While that may sound a little confusing for the newcomer, essentially each of the versions available contains the same core Linux structure and kernel, the kernel is the core of the operating system, that handles all the instructions between the software and hardware.

Each version is simply a different desktop environment, the Graphical User Interface (GUI) that you use to interact with the operating system. Each of the desktop environments uses different apps to access or use the system, such as the file manager to browse the operating system's file structure or the way it launches other apps. Again though, the core available productivity, video and graphic suites are the same, and function in the same way.

Why bother then with a different desktop environment? Simply put, it's down to personal taste. Some users prefer MATE, as MATE is a fork of the classic GNOME 2 environment and is a little more menu-centric and performs well on older computers. Others prefer Cinnamon, which is a more modern environment that works better on recent hardware and features some cutting edge desktop code. Xfce, on the other hand, is a lightweight desktop environment that works well on older hardware due to its extremely low use of the available system resources.

In short, Cinnamon is the flagship desktop environment for Linux Mint. MATE is more compatible with a wider variety of hardware. Where Windows, for example, only offers one desktop environment to work in, Linux offers many. Linux Mint has therefore opted to bring the user a wealth of choice.





A DASH OF CINNAMON

Cinnamon has many benefits beyond its look and feel, although they are important factors. Here, we outline a couple of features to help you decide if it's the DE for you.

FAB FEATURE 1

It performs excellently on more modern systems but is a lot more stable than it used to be, and not quite the resource hog it once was. Therefore, don't be put off Cinnamon if you're using an older computer to install and test Linux Mint.

FAB FEATURE 2

Cinnamon features configurable Hot Corners, where each corner of the desktop can be clicked to perform a certain task, such as display the Workspaces, Show all Windows or Run a Command. The Hot Corners are an excellent way to switch between different views and help make the desktop a more efficient environment.



BEST MATE

MATE is a simple to use and intuitive DE that's fast and stable. In comparison to Cinnamon it looks a little antiquated but that's only on the surface. There's plenty to like with MATE.

FAB FEATURE 1

MATE is an excellent desktop environment for older computers. It works better with a larger number of hardware components that Cinnamon generally does but is also just as capable of delivering a great looking desktop as well as advanced customisations.

FAB FEATURE 2

Due to its highly configurable nature, MATE can be customised to a fine degree. There are plenty of options available to the user who demands a little more from their desktop environment, including Compiz Settings, where you're able to configure all manner of desktop effects, even a 3D desktop cube.



CHOLESTEROL FREE DESKTOP

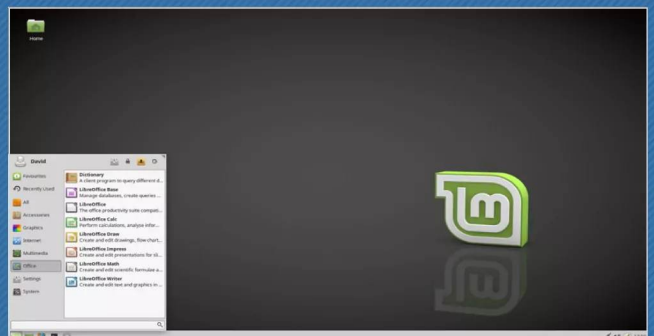
Xfce started life as the Common Desktop Environment (CDE) in 1996. Since then it's changed name a few times and is now simply Xfce, with the nickname 'Cholesterol Free Desktop Environment'.

FAB FEATURE 1

Xfce really is a quick desktop and brings out the best in Linux as a fast operating system. In fact, it's taken us to this point from the top of the page to install it onto a new computer; a few hundred words written and we're using a brand new OS. Not bad.

FAB FEATURE 2

Just because it's quick and lightweight doesn't mean Linux Mint Xfce isn't a complete desktop operating system. Just like the other environments on offer, you get the latest Firefox, Libreoffice, VLC, Gimp, chat apps and even a bit torrent client.





Which Distro?

Up to now we've looked mainly at Linux Mint but there are other Linux distributions out there to try. In truth there are thousands of Linux distros available to download and install, so which one should you decide on to use?

DISTRO HOPPING

Distro hopping is a term used by the community for people who never stick to a single distribution. Instead, they hop from one to the other and back again, testing each, using them, then moving on to another or a newly released distro.

There's nothing wrong with distro hopping, as it's a good way to get to grips with what's out there and discover the elements of one distro over another that may or may not appeal to your tastes. The problem of course is which one do you use overall?



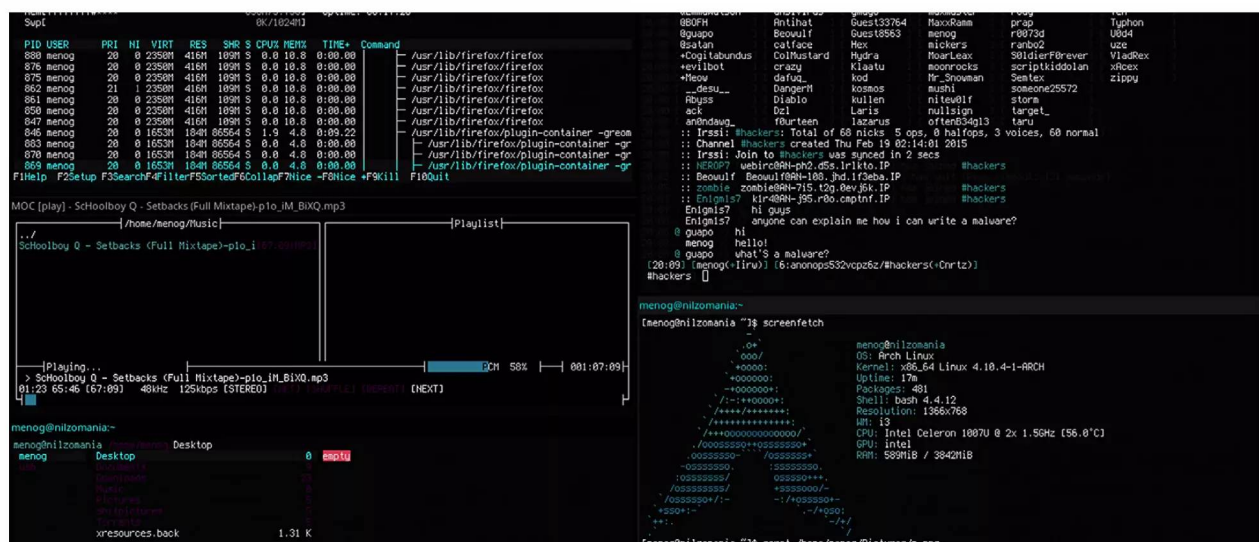
While distro hopping is a good thing, it's not exactly a stable way to enjoy Linux and get the most from it. We're not saying you should stick to one distro and never look elsewhere, as you would be missing a lot of great content out there, but instead we recommend you find a handful and slowly progress through them based on your increasing Linux skills.

For example, Linux Mint is an ideal starting place. It's an easy to install and use distro, has all the software you would normally use on a day-to-day basis already installed out-of-the-box and gently eases you into the unique world of Linux and how it works and performs.

Ubuntu offers much the same experience but it does this in a slightly different way. There's generally less preinstalled with Ubuntu than with Linux Mint, so you would need to manually install it yourself. Another point worth considering is the sheer volume of content and help pages dedicated to Ubuntu users when using Linux. If you get stuck, you're never too far from a solution to the problem.

Moving on, as you begin to grow more confident with Linux, you may test out the likes of openSUSE, Fedora or Debian. These are all excellent distros and each offers the user a slightly different perspective on how the system runs. Some are more demanding, in terms of Linux skills, than others, but essentially they each have some valuable lessons to learn for the user.

You may find yourself moving to a particular distro because it offers something radically different from the norm. Tails Linux, for example, is a distro that's designed purely for online anonymity. It contains complex and military grade encryption tools as well as tools and browsers designed to help you browse the web without ever being detected, traced or monitored. Kali Linux is designed for security professionals and contains many different kinds of ethical hacking

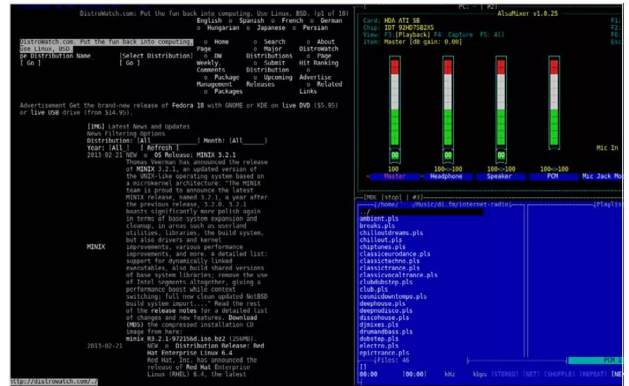




tools preinstalled, that a user can run for penetration testing against their network. There was once even a Hannah Montana Linux distribution but the less we talk about that the better. The point being, there's a distro out there for you.

Needless to say, once you've mastered Linux to a relatively high degree, probably a power user ability, then you will want to expand your skills and begin to build your own Linux distro based on Arch, Debian or one of the many other distros available. Doing so involves a lot of command line knowledge, as well as knowledge on how the Linux system works and interacts with the hardware in the computer. You will need to partition your own hard drive, install a desktop environment and eventually install the apps and programs you want. Doing so takes time and again there are a lot of skills you're going to need to learn.

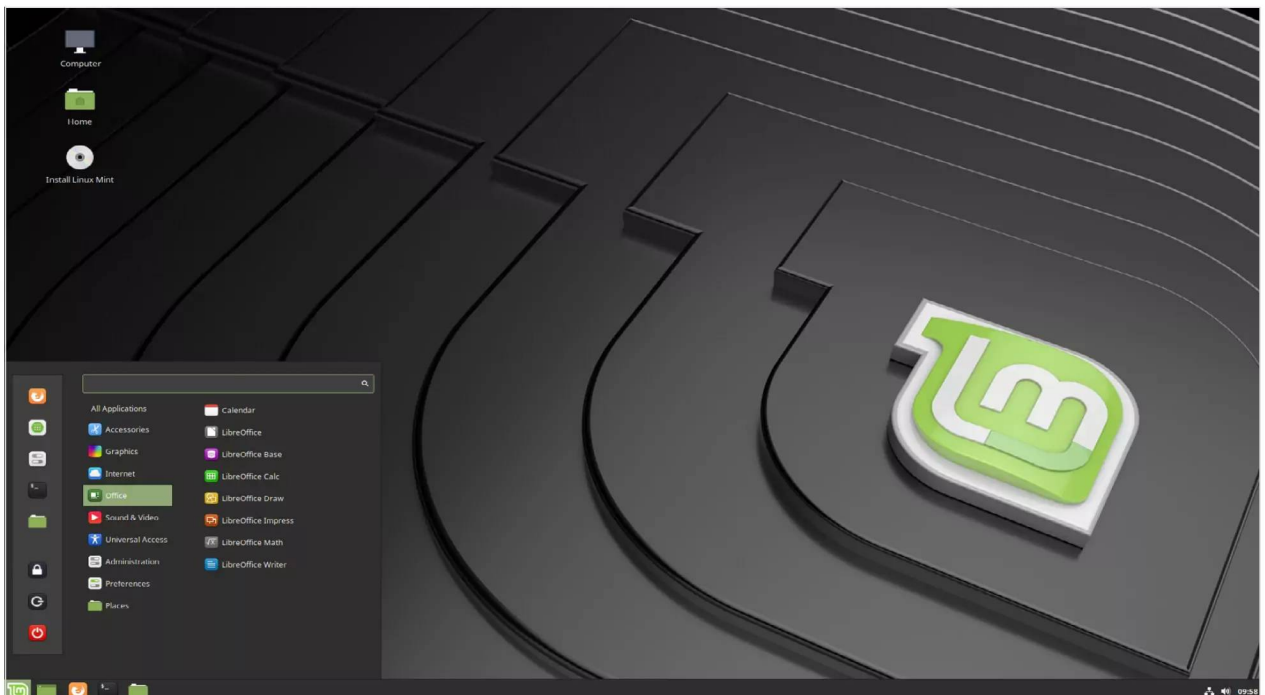
Eventually you can consider yourself a technical Linux user but never consider yourself an expert, after all we're always learning something new. You can build your own distro from scratch, help other Linux users out with problems, maybe even contribute to the improvement of a distro during its testing phase or build. Where next then?



Oddly enough, most higher-end technical users find themselves back at square one, using a distro like Linux Mint. The main reason is usually because it's an easy option, and it's a stable environment. Just because you know the system inside and out, doesn't mean you always want to be fixing potential issues. Most of us would prefer the easy life, especially where technology is concerned, so the logical choice would be to choose a distro that's simple, yet still powerful enough to do everything you want it to do, hence Linux Mint.

However, in the end, it's purely down to choice, your own personal choice. You may find that after going through the tutorials in this title you don't like Linux Mint or the Cinnamon desktop. Fine, you may prefer Ubuntu, Debian or openSUSE: that's the beauty of Linux. The freedom to change what you want, to distro hop from one to another without being penalised by cost or lack of access.

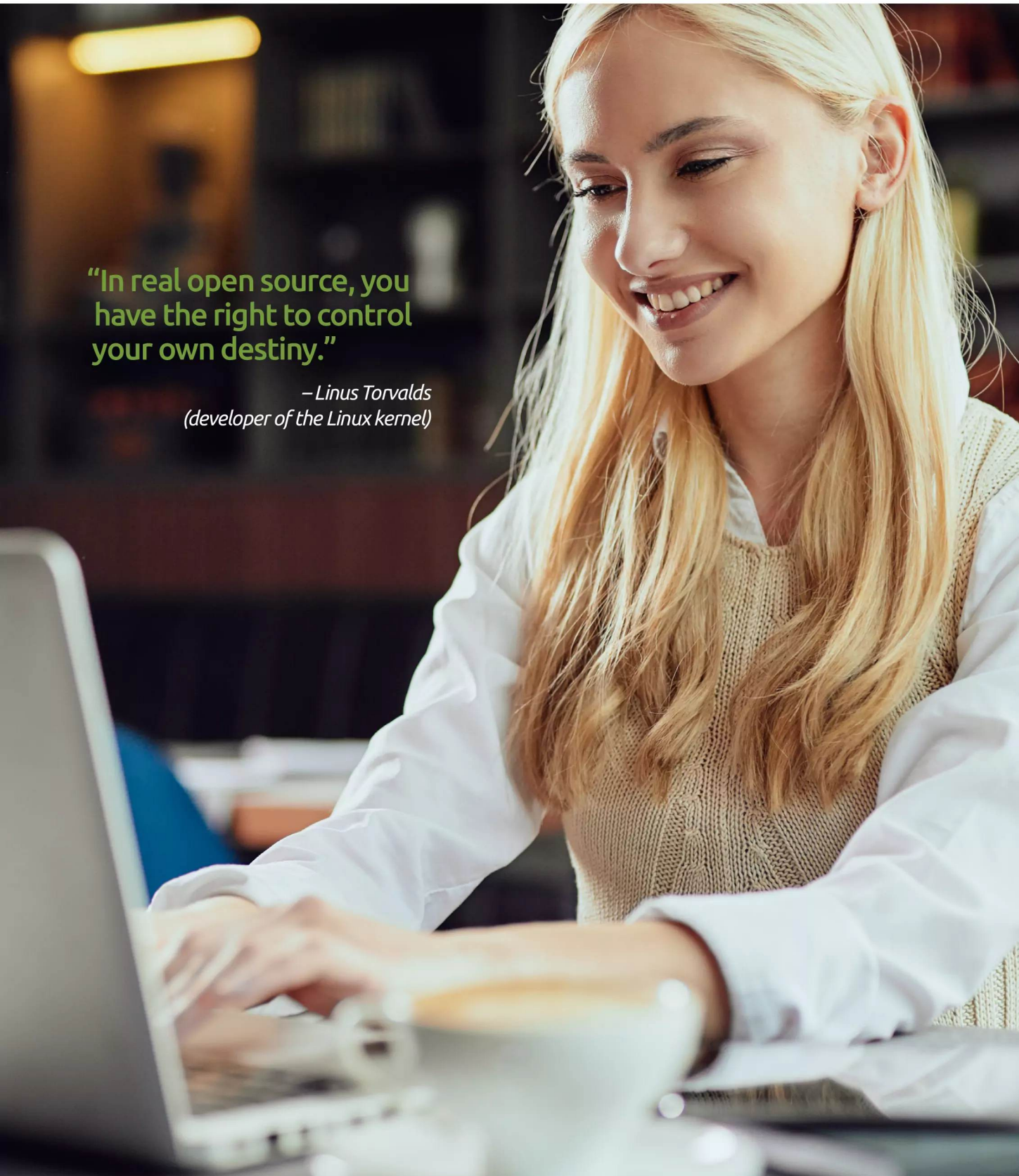
The answer to the question, which distro is: any which one you like! It can be as complex or easy as you need it to be, as long as it does what you want it to do, then it's perfect.





**"In real open source, you
have the right to control
your own destiny."**

*– Linus Torvalds
(developer of the Linux kernel)*





Getting Started with Linux

It's all fine and well talking about how good Linux is but how do you get it on your computer? Installing Linux is remarkably simple but there are several options available to you. This section looks into how you can download the Linux ISO, install it on a PC as your main operating system and even how to install a virtual environment.

With a virtual environment you can run Linux while still using your main operating system, be that Windows or macOS. Intrigued? Read on and find out more.



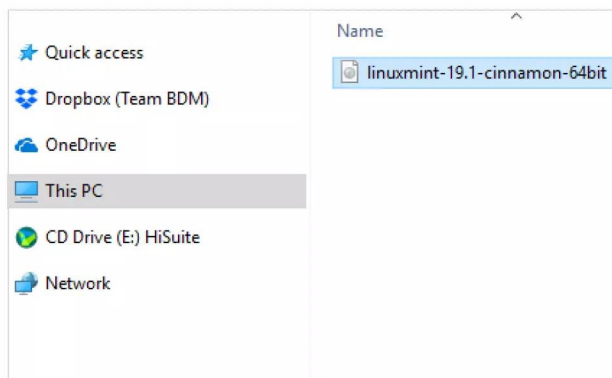
Creating a Linux Installer on Windows

You need to transfer the downloaded Linux ISO to either a DVD or a USB key before being able to install it onto a computer. This will be a live environment, which allows you to test the OS prior to installation, but first you need to create the bootable media.

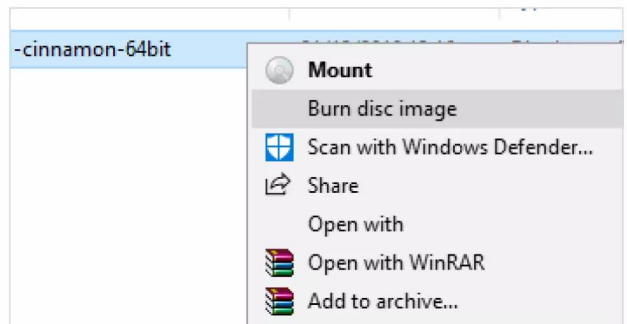
DVD BOOTABLE MEDIA

We're using a Windows 10 PC here to transfer the ISO to a DVD. If you're using a version of Windows from 7 onward the process is extremely easy.

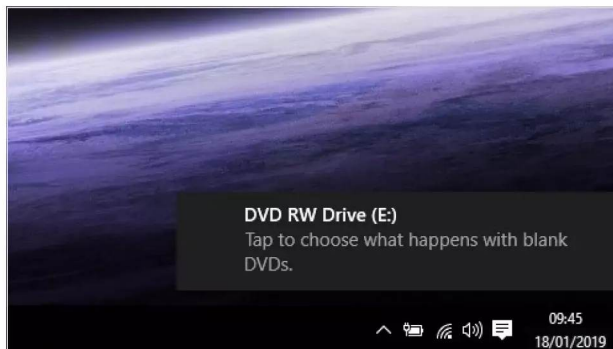
STEP 1 First locate the ISO image of Linux you've already downloaded. You can usually find it in the Downloads folder in Windows 7, 8.1 and 10 computers, unless you specified a different location when saving it.



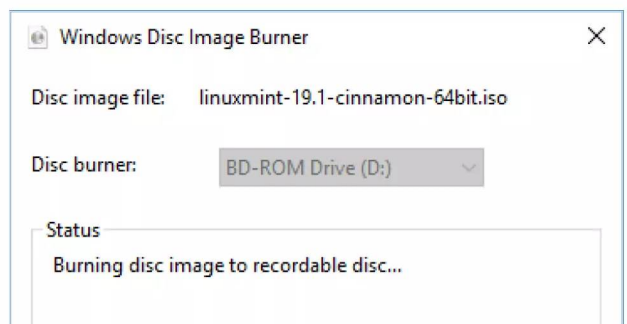
STEP 3 Right-click the Linux ISO and from the menu select Burn Disc Image. Depending on the speed of the PC, it may take a few seconds before anything happens. Don't worry too much, unless it takes more than a minute, in which case it might be worth restarting your PC and trying again. With luck, the Windows Disc Image Burner should launch.



STEP 2 Next insert a recordable DVD disc into your computer's optical drive. After a few seconds, while the disc is read, Windows displays a pop-up message asking you what to do with the newly inserted disc. Ignore this, as we're going to use the built-in image burning function.



STEP 4 With the Windows Disc Image Burner dialogue box open, click on the 'Verify disc after burning' tick box, then the Burn button. The process should take a few minutes, depending on the speed of your PC's optical drive. Once it's complete it runs through the verification stage and when done the optical drive should auto-eject the disc for you.

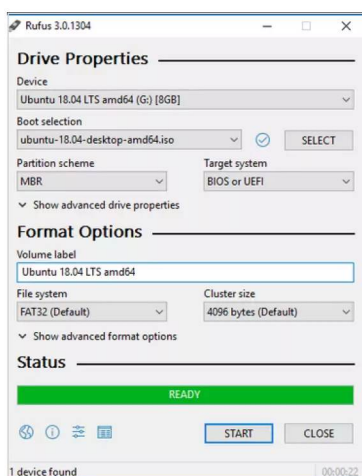




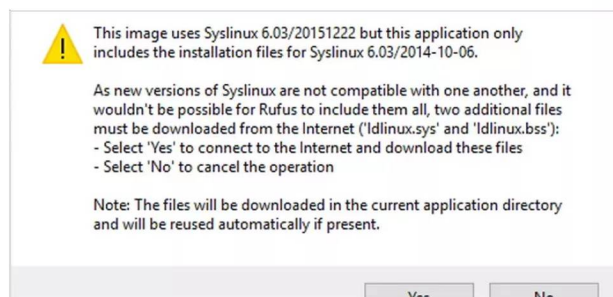
USB BOOTABLE MEDIA

USB media is faster than a DVD and often more convenient, as most modern PCs don't have an optical drive installed. The process of transferring the image is easy but you need a third-party app first and a USB flash drive of 4GB or more.

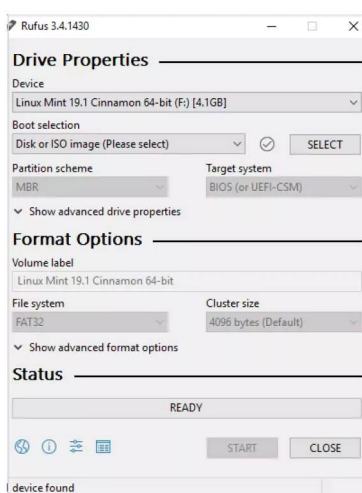
STEP 1 First open up a web browser and go to www.rufus.akeo.ie/. Scroll down the page a little and you come to a Download heading, under which is the latest version of Rufus. Left click the link to start the download.



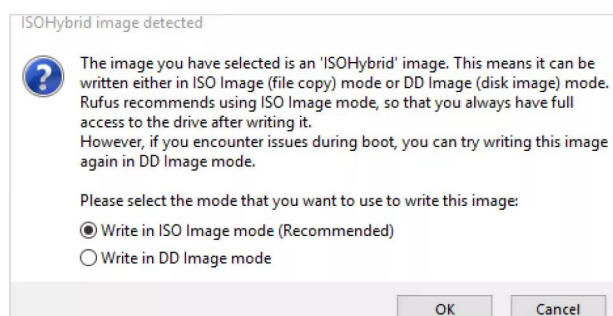
STEP 4 When you're ready, click on the Start button at the bottom of the Rufus app. This may open up another dialogue box asking you to download and use a new version of SysLinux. SysLinux is a selection of boot loaders, used to allow a modern PC to access and boot from a USB flash drive. It is necessary, so if asked click on 'Yes' to continue.



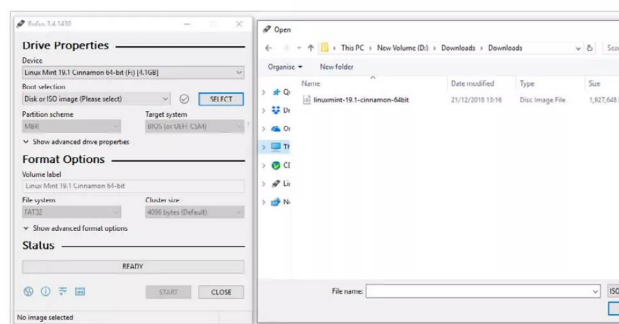
STEP 2 Double-click the downloaded Rufus executable and click Yes to the Windows security question and Yes to checking for updates. With Rufus launched it should have already identified your inserted USB flash drive; if not, just remove and reinsert.



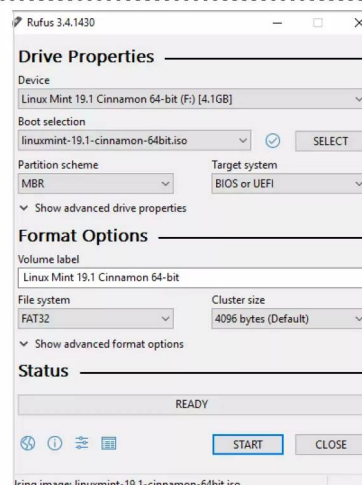
STEP 5 The next step asks which image mode you want the Linux ISO to be written to the USB flash drive in. Both methods work for different situations but generally, the recommended ISO Image Mode is the more popular. Make sure this mode is preselected and click OK to continue, followed by OK again to confirm the action.



STEP 3 At first glance the Rufus interface can look a little confusing but don't worry, it's really quite simple. To begin with, click on the SELECT button next to the 'Disk or ISO Image (Please select)' pull-down menu. This launches a Windows Explorer window where you can locate and select the Linux ISO.



STEP 6 The Linux ISO is now transferred to the USB flash drive. The process shouldn't take too long, again depending on the speed of the USB device and the PC. You may find Rufus auto-opens the USB drive in Windows Explorer during the process; don't worry you can minimise or close it if you want. When the process is complete, click on the Close button.





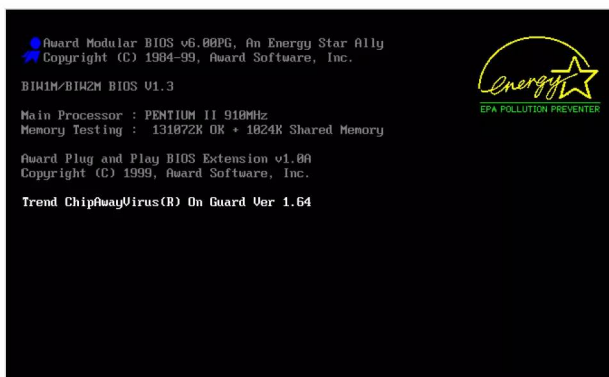
Installing Linux on a PC

Most Linux distros come as a Live Environment. This means you can boot into an actual, fully-working distro straight from the DVD or USB that you just created. Let's see how that works and how you go about installing Linux from there.

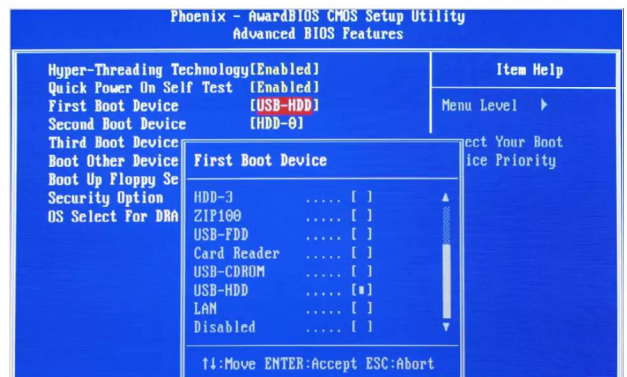
UEFI BIOS

The Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) is used to identify hardware and protect a PC during its boot-up process. It replaces the traditional BIOS but can cause issues when installing Linux.

STEP 1 Insert your DVD or USB flash drive into your PC and, if you haven't already, shutdown Windows. In this instance we're using the USB boot media but the process is virtually identical. Start the PC and when prompted press the appropriate keys to enter the BIOS or SETUP, which could for example be: F2, Del or even F12.



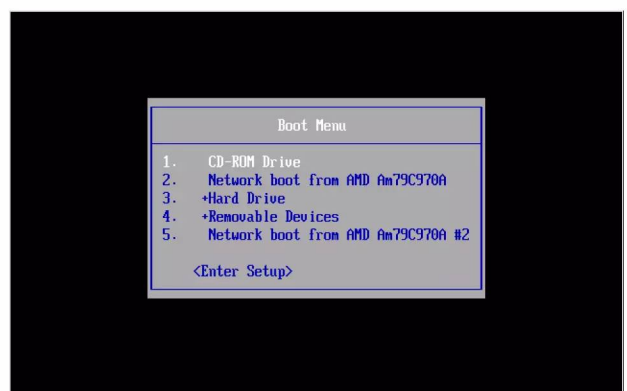
STEP 3 With UEFI turned to Legacy mode, there are now two ways of booting into the Live Environment. The first is via the BIOS you're already in. Locate the Boot Sequence and change the first boot device from its original setting, usually Internal HDD or similar, to: USB Storage Device for the USB media option, or DVD Drive for the DVD media option.



STEP 2 There are different versions of a UEFI BIOS, so covering them all would be impossible. What you're looking for is a section that details the Boot Sequence or Boot Mode. Here you have the option to turn off UEFI and choose Legacy or disable Secure Booting. Most distros work with UEFI but it can be a tricky process to enable it to boot.



STEP 4 Alternatively use the Boot Option Menu. With this option you can press F12 (or something similar) to display a list of boot media options; from there, you can choose the appropriate boot media. Either way, you can now Save and Exit the BIOS by navigating to the Save & Exit option and choosing 'Save Changes and Exit'.

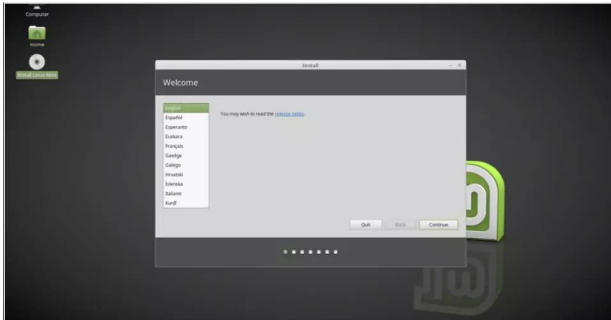




INSTALLING LINUX

Once the Live Environment has booted, you see the option to install the distro to your computer. Have a look around and when you're ready, look for the Install option on the desktop.

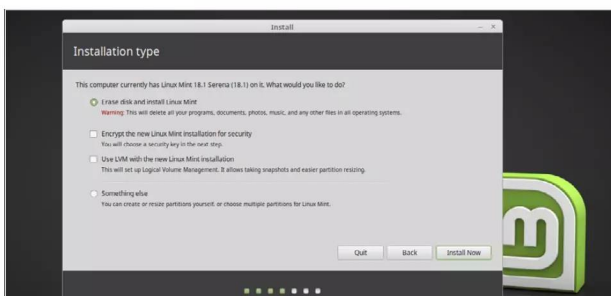
STEP 1 Providing you're connected to the internet (if not, then do so now) and you're in the Live Environment, start the installation process by double-clicking on the Install Linux Mint icon on the desktop. Other distros display their own name, of course, but the process is the same. Click Continue when you're ready.



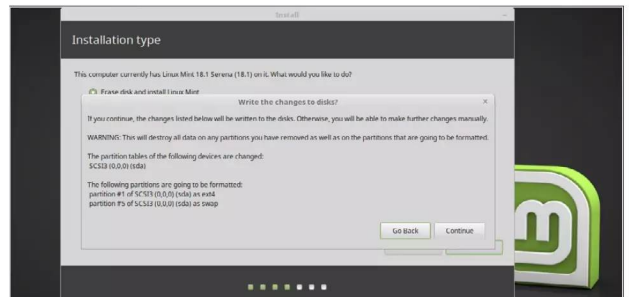
STEP 2 While the installation process is very similar across most Linux distros, some offer different questions during the installation. Generally, the questions aren't too difficult, nothing very technical, but some such as 'Installing third-party software...' can be confusing. In this case you can click Continue but if you're unsure, have an Internet-connected device available to ask any questions.



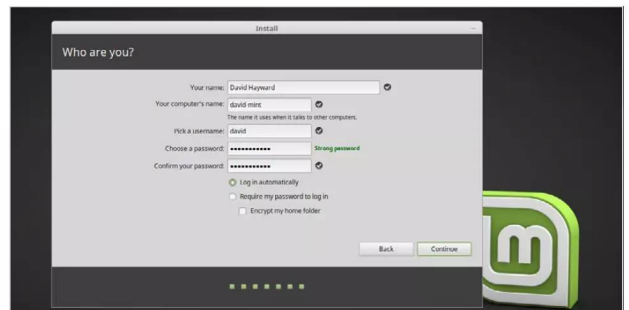
STEP 3 When installing a new operating system it's recommended that you wipe the old OS, replacing it with the new. When you reach this stage of the installation process, ensure the 'Erase disk and install Linux...' option is selected. NOTE: This completely wipes Windows 10 from your computer, so make sure you have backups of all your personal files and data.



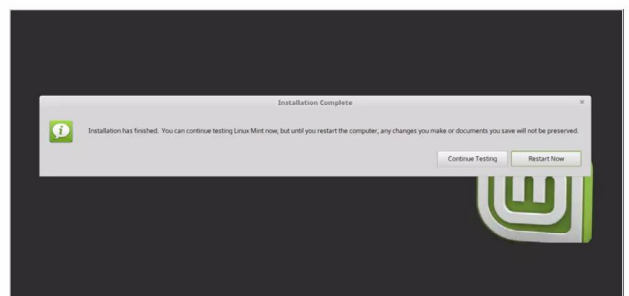
STEP 4 Before the installation process begins, you're asked if the choice you made regarding the erasure of the hard drive is correct. This is your last chance to back out. If you're certain you don't mind wiping everything and starting again with Linux Mint, click Continue. If you need to backup your files remove the Linux disc/USB, reboot, backup and start again.



STEP 5 Eventually you are asked to set up your Linux username and password. Enter your Name to begin with, then the Computer Name, which is the name it is identified on the network as. Next choose a Username, followed by a good Password. You can tick the Login Automatically option but leave the Encrypt Home Folder option for now.



STEP 6 The installation process can be quick, and there may be more questions to answer, or it may simply start installing Linux based on your previous answers. Either way, you end up being asked to Continue Testing the Live Environment or Restarting to use the newly installed OS. If you're ready to use Linux, then click Restart Now.





Installing a Virtual Environment

A Virtual Environment is a simulated computer system. Using a Virtual Machine, you can mimic a standard PC and install an entire operating system to it without affecting the one installed on your computer. It's a great way to test and use Linux, while still having Windows 10 as your main OS.

GOING VIRTUAL

Using a Virtual Machine (VM) takes resources from your computer: memory, hard drive space, processor usage and so on. Make sure you have enough of each before commencing.

STEP 1

We're using VirtualBox in this instance, as it's one of the easiest virtual environments to get to grips with. Enter www.virtualbox.org and click on 'Download VirtualBox'. This takes you to the main download page. Locate the correct host for your system: Windows or Mac, the Host being the current installed operating system, and click the link to begin the download.



STEP 2

Next, while still at the VirtualBox download page, locate the VirtualBox Extension Pack link. The Extension Pack supports USB devices as well as numerous other extras that can help make the VM environment a more accurate emulation of a 'real' computer.



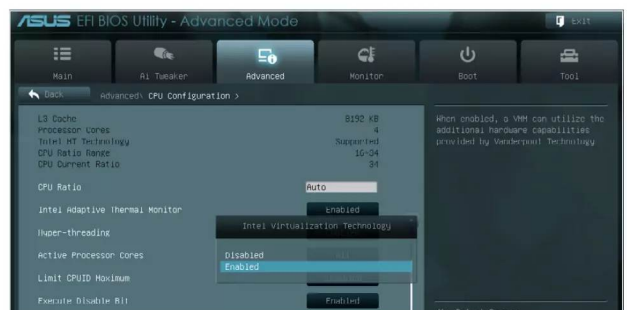
STEP 3

With the correct packages downloaded, and before you install anything, you need to make sure that the computer you're using is able to host a VM. To do this, reboot the computer and enter the BIOS. When the computer starts up, press the Del, F2 or whichever key is necessary to Enter Setup.



STEP 4

Each BIOS is laid out differently and it's very difficult to assess where to look in each personal example. However, as a general rule of thumb, you're looking for Intel Virtualisation Technology, or simply Virtualisation, found usually within the Advanced section of the BIOS. When you've located it, Enable it, save the settings, exit the BIOS and reboot the computer.

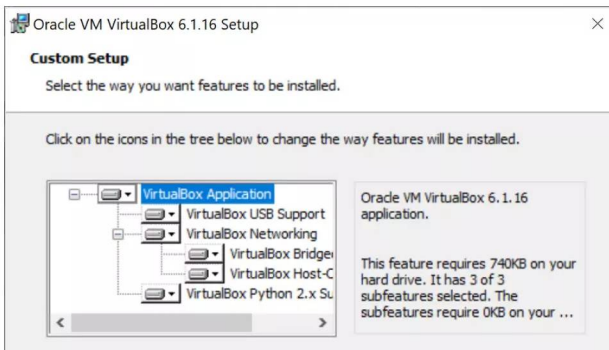




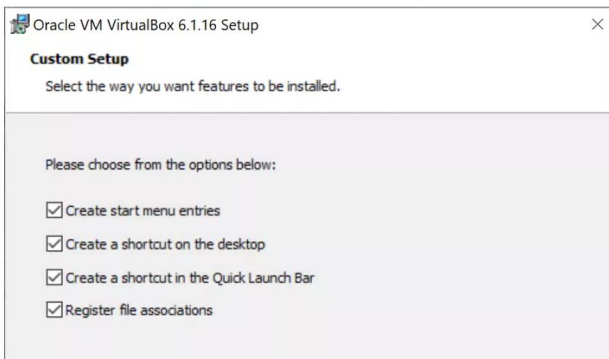
STEP 5 With the computer back up and running, locate the downloaded main VirtualBox application and double-click to begin the installation process. Click Next to continue, when you're ready.



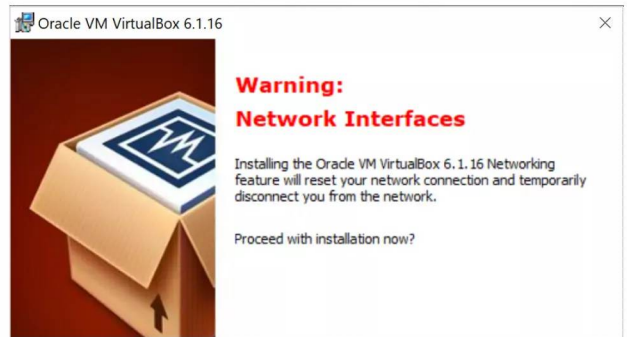
STEP 6 The default installation location of VirtualBox should satisfy most users but if you have any special location requirements click on the 'Browse' button and change the install folder. Then, make sure that all the icons in the VirtualBox feature tree are selected, i.e. none of them have a red X next to them. Click Next to move on.



STEP 7 This section can be left alone to the defaults, should you wish. It simply makes life a little easier when dealing with VMs, especially when dealing with downloaded VMs, which you may encounter in the future. Again, clicking Next moves you on to the next stage.



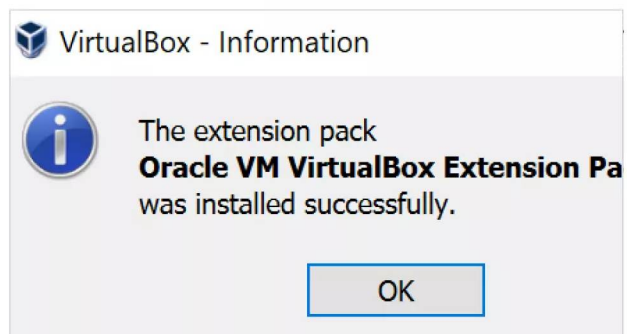
STEP 8 When installing VirtualBox your network connection is disabled for a very brief period. This is due to VirtualBox creating a linked, virtual network connection so that any VM installed is able to access the Internet, and your home network resources, via the computer's already established network connection. Click Yes, then Install to begin the installation.



STEP 9 You'll probably be asked by Windows to accept a security notification. Click Yes for this and you may encounter a dialogue box asking you to trust the installation from Oracle; again, click yes and accept the installation of the VirtualBox application. When it's complete, click finish to start VirtualBox.



STEP 10 With VirtualBox up and running you can now install the VirtualBox Extension Pack. Locate the downloaded add-on and double-click. There may be a short pause while VirtualBox analyses the pack but you eventually receive a message to install it; obviously click Install to begin the process, scroll down the next screen to accept the agreement and click I Agree.





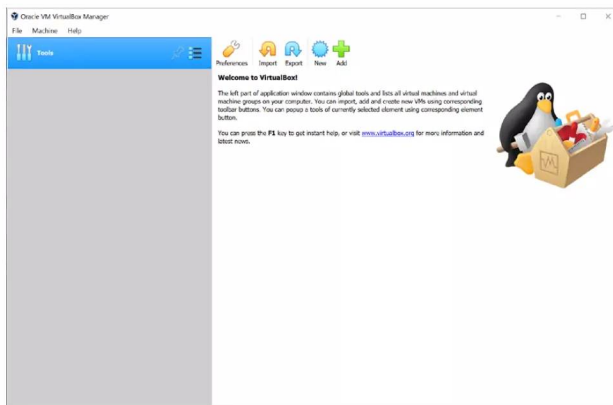
Installing Linux in a Virtual Environment

With Oracle's VirtualBox now up and running, the next task is to create the Virtual Machine (VM) environment into which you will install Linux. This process won't affect your currently installed operating system, which is why a VM is a great choice.

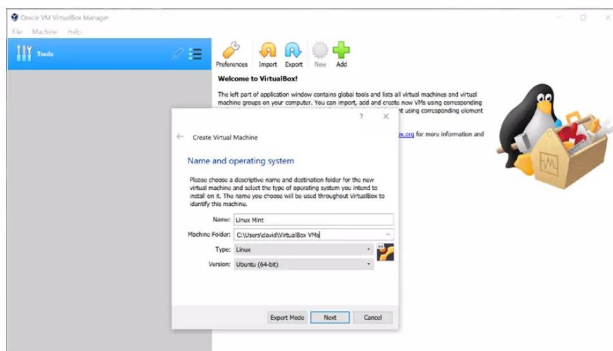
CREATING THE VM

There are plenty of options to choose from when creating a VM. For now though, we'll setup a VM adequate to run the excellent Linux Mint, and perform well.

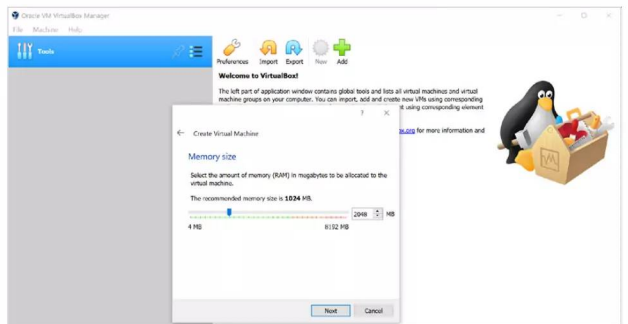
STEP 1 With VirtualBox open, click on the New icon in the top-middle of the right-hand panel of the app. This will open the new VM Wizard.



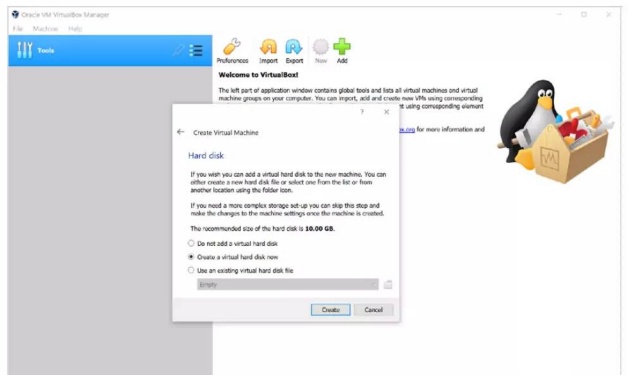
STEP 2 In the box next to Name type Linux Mint, and VirtualBox should automatically choose Linux as the Type and Ubuntu (64-bit) as the Version, if not then use the drop-down boxes to select the correct settings (remember Mint mainstream is based on Ubuntu). Click Next when you're ready to proceed.



STEP 3 The next section will define the amount of system memory, or RAM, the VM has allocated. Remember this amount will be taken from the available memory installed in your computer, so don't give the VM too much. For example, we have 8GB of memory installed and we're giving 2GB (2048MB) to the VM. When you're ready, click Next to continue.



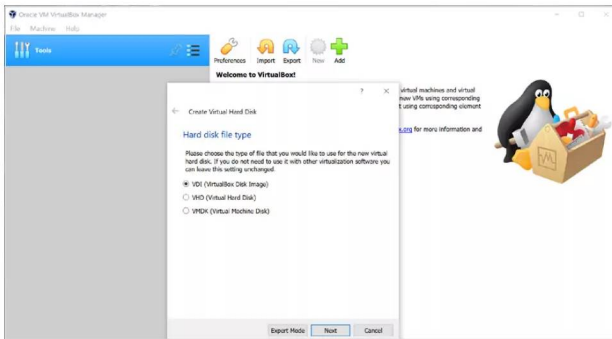
STEP 4 This section is where you'll start to create the virtual hard disk that the VM will use to install Mint on to. The default option, 'Create a virtual hard disk now', is the one we're using. Click Create to move on.





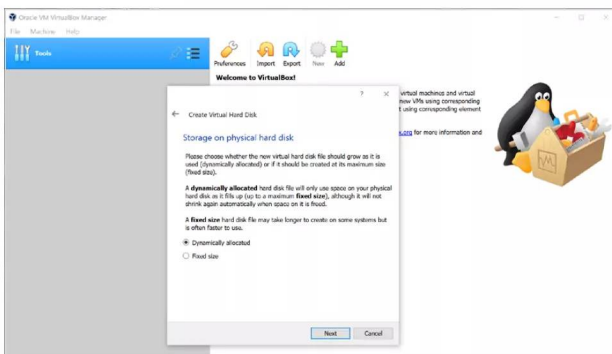
STEP 5

The pop-up window that appears after clicking Create is asking you what type of virtual hard disk you want to create. We're going to use the default VDI (VirtualBox Disk Image) in this case, as the others are often used to move VMs from one VM application to the next. Make sure VDI is selected, and click Next.



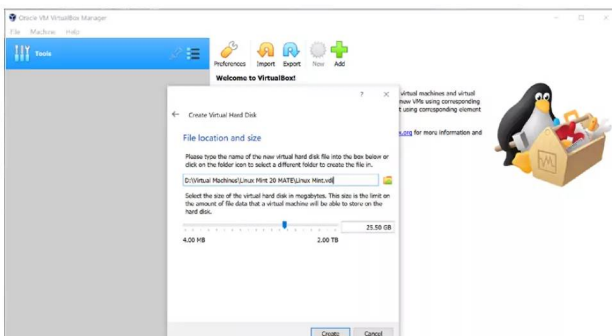
STEP 6

The question of whether to opt for Dynamically or Fixed sized virtual hard disks may come across as being somewhat confusing to the newcomer. Basically, a Dynamically Allocated virtual hard disk is a more flexible storage management option. It won't take up much space within your physical hard disk to begin with either. Ensure Dynamically Allocated is selected, and click Next.



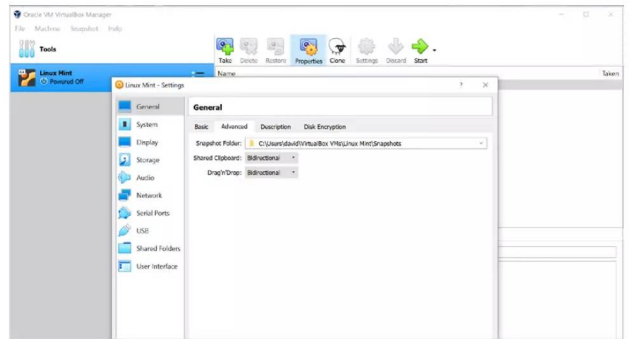
STEP 7

The virtual hard disk will be a single folder, up to the size you state in this section. Ensure the location of the virtual hard disk, on your computer, has enough free space available. For example, we've used a bigger storage option on our D:\ drive, named it Linux Mint, and allocated 25.50GB of space to the virtual hard disk.



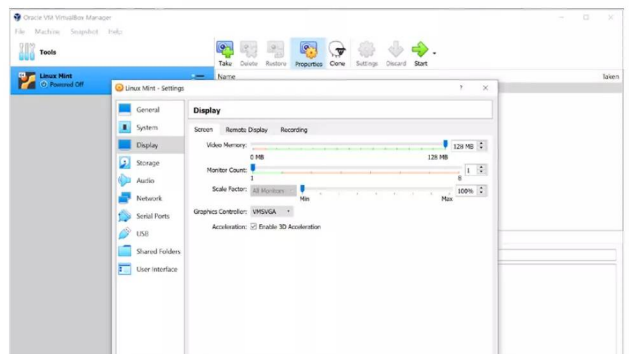
STEP 8

After clicking Create the initial setup of the VM is complete; you should now be looking at the newly created VM within the VirtualBox application. Before you begin though, click the Settings button from the top of the right-hand panel, and within the General section click the Advanced tab. Using the pull-down menus, choose 'Bidirectional' for both Shared Clipboard and Drag'n'Drop.



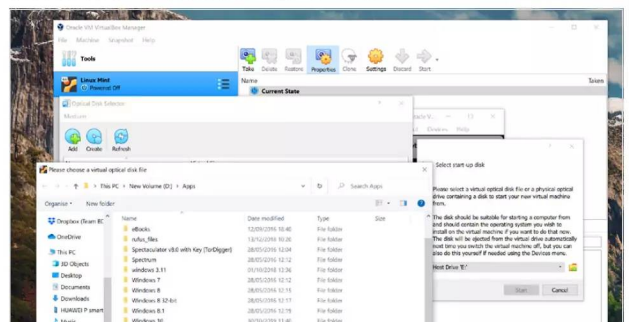
STEP 9

Follow that by clicking on the System section, then the Processor tab. Depending on your CPU allocate as many cores as you can without detriment to your host system; we've opted for two CPUs. Now click on the Display section, slide the Video Memory up to the maximum, and tick 'Enable 3D Acceleration'. Click OK to commit the new settings.



STEP 10

Click on the Start button and use the explorer button in the 'Select Start-up Disk' window; the explorer button is a folder with a green arrow. Click Add in the new pop-up window, to locate the downloaded ISO of Mint; and click Open to select the ISO. Now click the Start button to boot the VM with the Linux Mint Live Environment. You can now install Linux as per the standard PC installation requirements.





“Anyone can build a fast processor. The trick is to build a fast system.”

– Seymour Cray (Electrical Engineer, and designer/founder of Cray Supercomputers)





Getting to Know Linux

We've used Linux Mint as a guideline here, as it's an easy to use distro and perfect for former Windows users. It's also one of the most developed and well documented Linux distros as well as having some fantastic configuration options.

In this section, we introduce the Linux Mint Cinnamon Menu and Desktop Environment, how it works and what you can do to customise it. Want to create another user or even discover how to become anonymous online? Then read on.



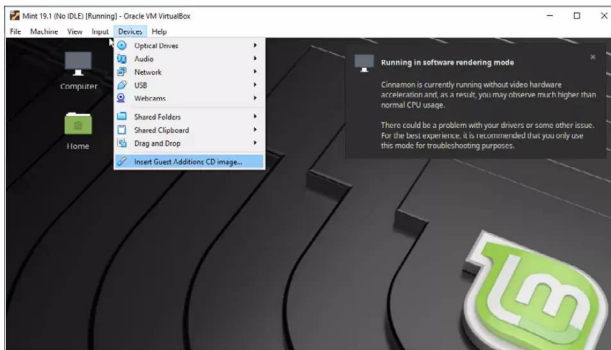
Introduction to the Cinnamon Menu

Now that you have Linux installed it's time to have a good look around. First though, if you're using Virtualbox you'll have a notification regarding Software Rendering; here's how to fix it.

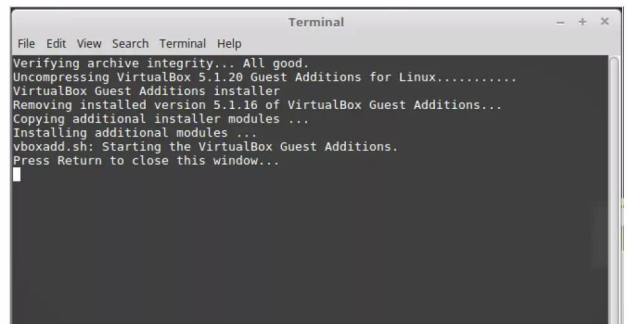
CINNAMON VIRTUALBOX FIX

You've already looked at some list functions, using `.insert`, `.remove`, and `.pop` but there are also functions that can be applied to strings.

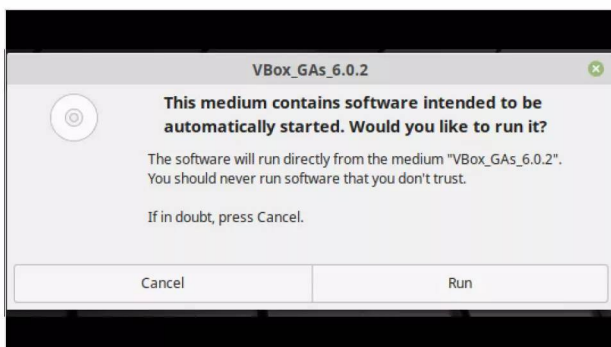
STEP 1 Before we begin, we're assuming you're having this issue within Virtualbox. The Software Rendering message appears in the top right of the desktop. To fix this, click on Devices in the Virtualbox window, followed by Insert Guest Additions CD Image.



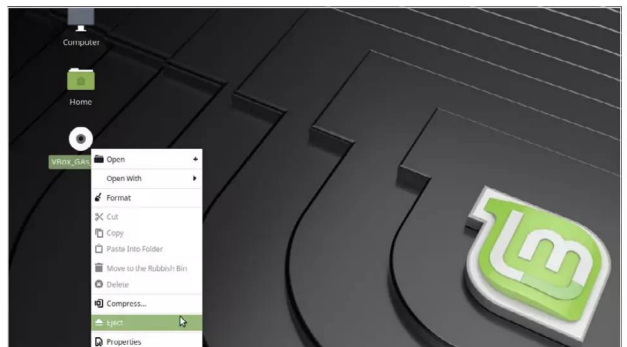
STEP 3 After a moment or two you're automatically dropped into a command line view, called the Terminal in Linux. This details the installation of the new VirtualBox drivers, removing any old drivers it has detected, and installing the latest versions. It won't take long and when it's done you will be asked to hit Return to exit the Terminal.



STEP 2 The Guest Additions CD contains drivers for Virtualbox, including the virtual video hardware. When it's loaded in, you get a 'software needs running' notification box with two options, Cancel and Run. Click the Run button and enter your Linux user password.



STEP 4 The Virtualbox Additions CD icon is on the desktop, so right-click it and then scroll down the menu to click Eject. You can now restart Linux Mint by clicking the Menu, the bottom icon in the strip to the left, then the Restart button. This reboots Mint and the problem is fixed.

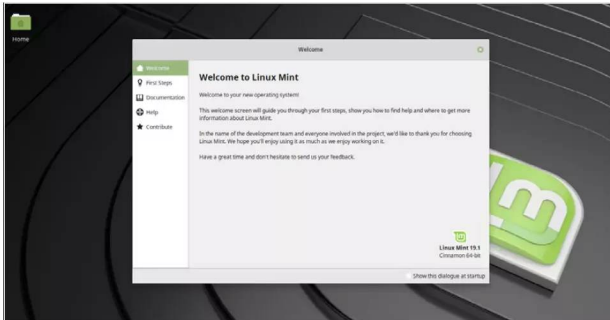




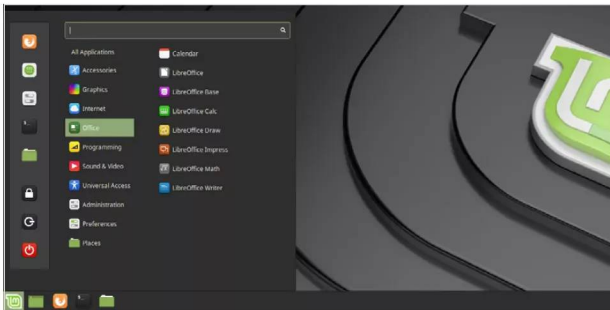
CINNAMON ON THE MENU

Now the Software Rendering issue for Virtualbox users is out of the way, let's take a look at the Mint Menu and how it all works. Remember, this is just for Mint Cinnamon, other distros look and behave differently.

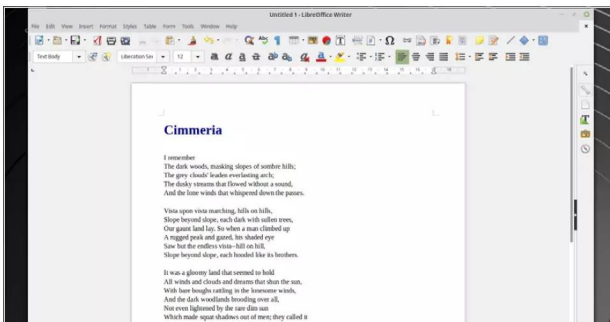
STEP 1 First off, you may have already noticed the Welcome Screen that pops up when you login to Linux Mint. Take a moment to browse through the options, read the First Steps option and so on. When you're done, click the X in the top right corner of the window to close it.



STEP 2 You've already used the Mint Menu to reboot the system and when you first used the Live Environment. This time, click the Menu button and hover over the Office entry in the middle column. This changes the icons represented in the right-hand column, detailing what apps are installed under that section.



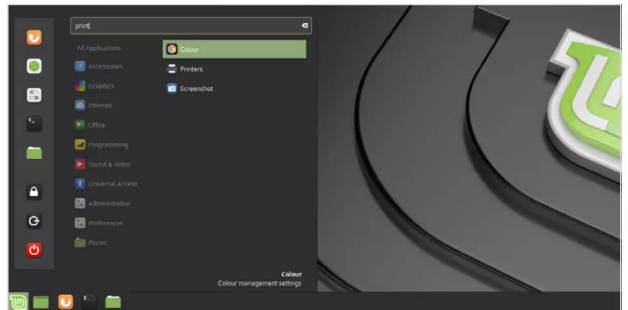
STEP 3 Launching any of the apps from the Menu is as simple as finding one and clicking it. For example, under the Office section, click on LibreOffice Writer. Writer is the preinstalled word processor for Linux Mint. It opens and saves as Microsoft Word and functions in almost the same way.



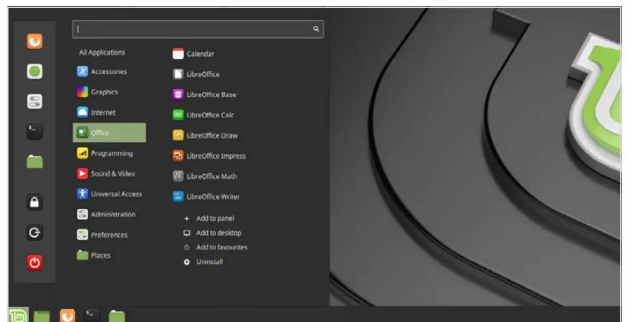
STEP 4 Open up the Menu again but this time hover the mouse pointer over Graphics, then click on GNU Image Manipulation Program. GIMP is a powerful image manipulation app that's probably as effective as Adobe's Photoshop but requires a little more work to get the results you want. It's certainly worth taking the time to master, though.



STEP 5 If you're looking for a particular function or app, such as setting up a printer, click on the Search box at the top of the Menu box. Start typing the app or function you want, such as printers, and the Mint Menu displays the relevant options below. This works with most modern Linux menus, regardless of the distro.



STEP 6 Hover over any of the apps listed on the right-hand column and right-click, to be presented with a list of options: Add to Panel, Add to Desktop, Add to Favourites and Uninstall. Most of these options are obvious in their use. Add to Favourites though places the app in the left-hand, quick-access column.





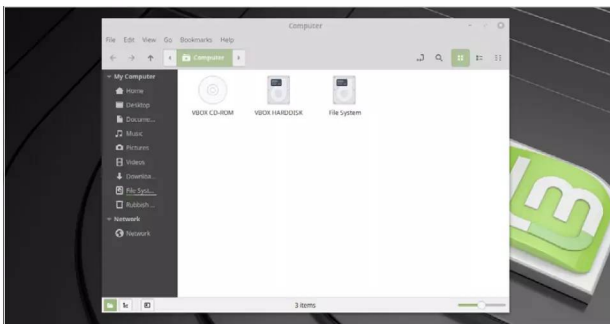
Navigating the Cinnamon Desktop

Each desktop environment behaves differently to that of the next. Some DEs offer widgets that can be customised and placed on the desktop, others instead opt for a clean, sharp look to keep everything running as fast as possible. Let's see what the Cinnamon desktop has to offer.

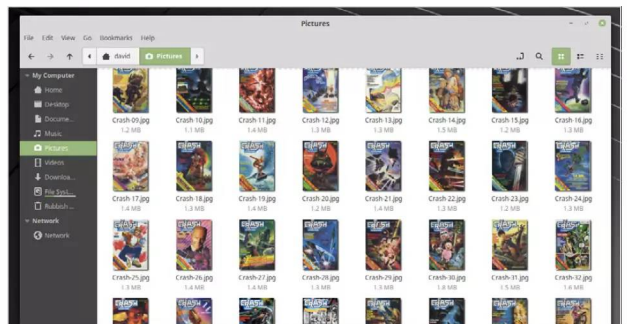
A TOUCH OF SPICE

The Cinnamon desktop environment is a great blend of style and performance. There's lots to like about it, which is why it's such a popular DE.

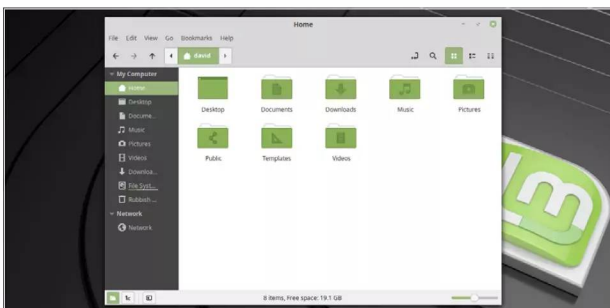
STEP 1 Begin exploring the Cinnamon desktop by double-clicking the Computer icon. This brings up Nemo, the file manager used in Cinnamon. The Computer icon opens up the root level file system, with access and views to the optical drive (if you have one installed), hard drive and core Linux file system.



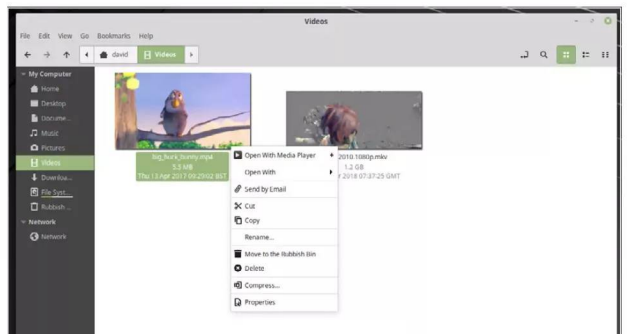
STEP 3 Nemo has many different features, views and ways so that you can view and manipulate files and folders. For example, if you have any images in the Pictures folder, you can select the icon zoom level for the images by using the slider located in the bottom right of Nemo, labelled Adjust Zoom Level.



STEP 2 The Linux file system can appear confusing to a former Windows user, so until you're a little more knowledgeable on how it all works, we'd recommend you concentrate on the Home icon on the desktop instead. In here is everything relating to your user account: where you store Pictures, Videos, Music, Documents, Downloaded items etc.



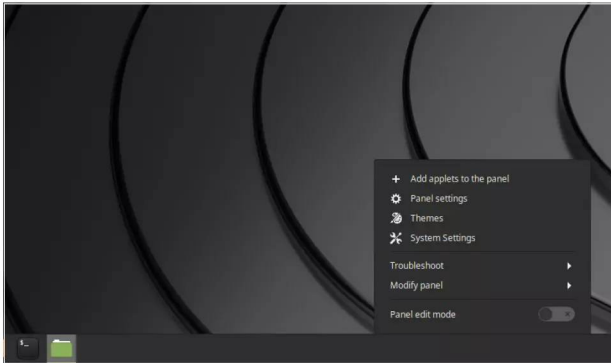
STEP 4 Just like any good file manager, if you right-click any of the files or folders within you get a wealth of options. In the case of Cinnamon, the defaults allow you to play or view a file depending on what type of file it is and copy, cut, delete, compress, rename, send via email and view its properties.





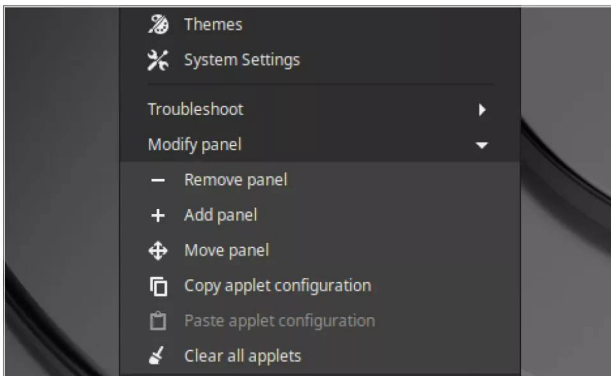
STEP 5

At the bottom of the desktop there's the Panel. We've already looked at one section of the Panel, the Menu. If you right-click anywhere on the Panel, other than on a Panel app, you see a menu allowing you to edit, add and set up the Panel in a different way.



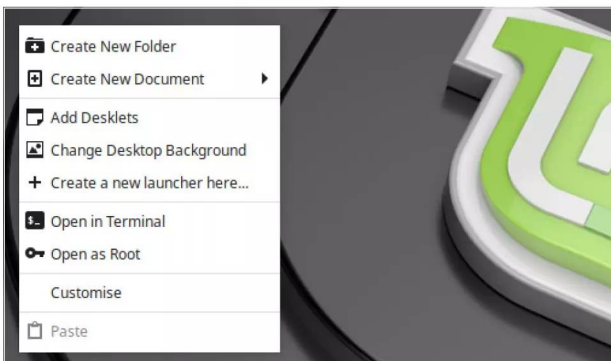
STEP 6

For example, if you click the option Modify Panel, you can remove, move, remove the Panel, add a new one and clear it of any Applets that are currently present. An Applet, by the way, is an app that's designed to work and fit into the Cinnamon Panel.



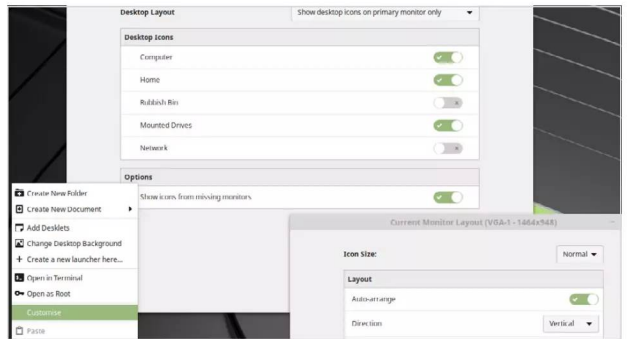
STEP 7

If you right-click anywhere on the Cinnamon desktop you see a set of options that allows you to further add to, edit or view the desktop content differently. It's very similar to that of Windows, which is why Mint is a good choice for ex-Windows users.



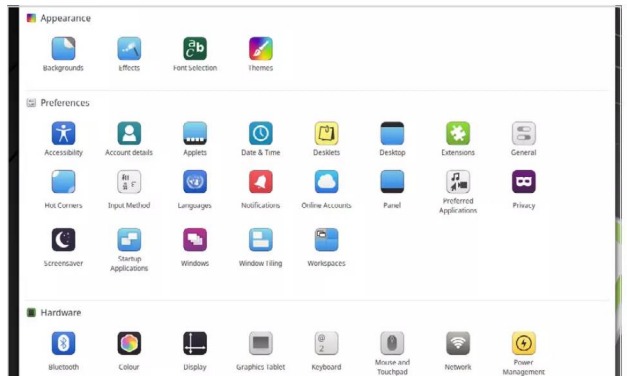
STEP 8

From that desktop right-click, context menu, select Customise, followed by the Desktop Settings link at the bottom of the newly opened window. This opens a new window where you're able to edit which desktop icons are present. If you're using a setup with multiple monitors attached, you can also choose which monitor displays which icons.



STEP 9

Click on the Menu and type system settings and open the resulting icon. This takes you to the System Settings options. From here you're able to control and edit the way Linux Mint Cinnamon looks and works as well add new users, manage the firewall and enable accessibility options.



STEP 10

In short, Linux Mint Cinnamon can be configured to look quite extraordinary. There are many examples available of how good it can get and what can be achieved. You can go as complex or as simple as you want, adding different component and animations or just keeping it plain and easy to read.





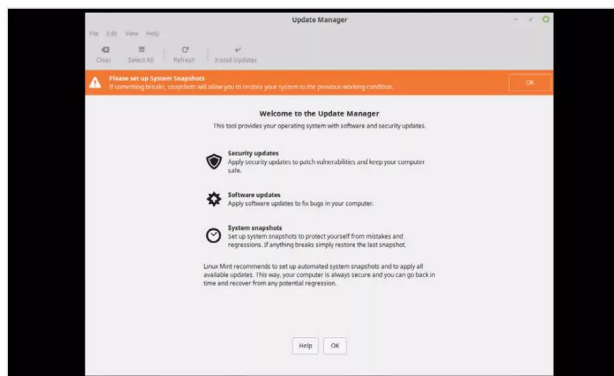
10 Things to do After Installing Linux Mint

Linux Mint is a polished distro out of the box but, as with most Linux distros, there are some tweaks that can be applied to improve the way it works. Although these are Mint-specific tweaks, most can be applied to other distros.

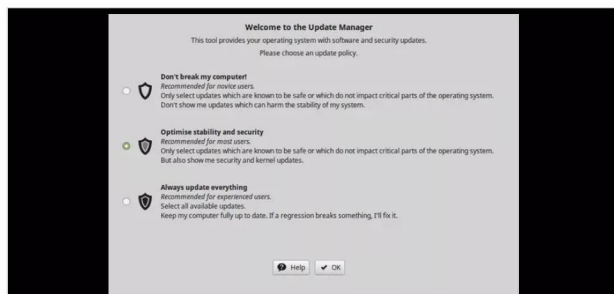
LINUX TWEAKS

Some of these post-installation actions are highly recommended, while others are just handy additions and simply tweak the system or add a customisation.

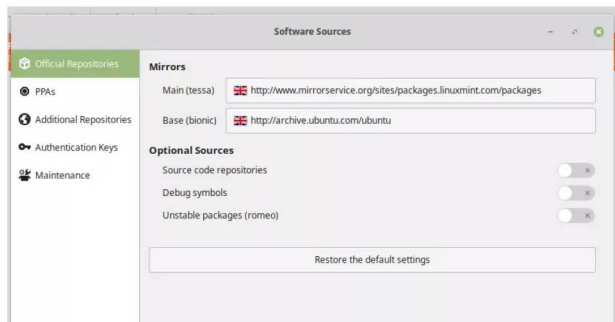
STEP 1 The first, and most important, post-installation action is to update the system. Click on the shield icon in the Panel, found at the bottom right of the desktop next to the time and date. This launches the Update Manager.



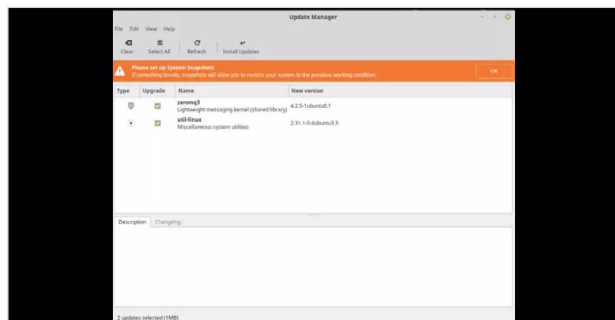
STEP 2 Linux Mint offers the user a three level policy approach to updates: Don't Break My Computer, Optimise Stability and Security and Always Update Everything. The recommended option is the Optimise Stability and Security, which only updates safe, essential patches that won't impact critical elements of the core OS. Read through the descriptions but choose the middle, and recommended option.



STEP 3 Click the OK button and you can see a couple of updates ready for installation. Before you update though, click on the blue bar OK button to switch to a Local Mirror. This opens the Software Sources option. In the Mirrors section, click on the Main and Base drop-down menus and select a server closest to your current location.



STEP 4 Click the Update the Cache button and close the Software Sources window. Back in the Update Manager, click on the Install Updates icon and enter your password. The updates automatically apply themselves and relaunch Update Manager, this time with a lot more updates. Again, click Install Updates, OK any messages and wait for them to finish.





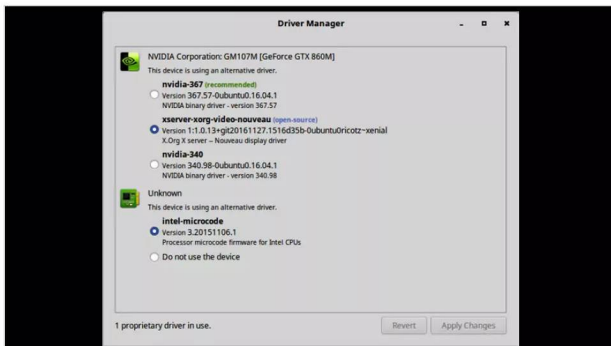
STEP 5

The updates are graded by level, 1 being a low level update, level 5 being a dangerous one. Stick to level 3 updates, is our advice; and click Replace for any messages regarding overwriting a configuration file. With regards to the Software Rendering issue and lack of drivers for non-VirtualBox users, click the Menu and type 'driver' into the search box.



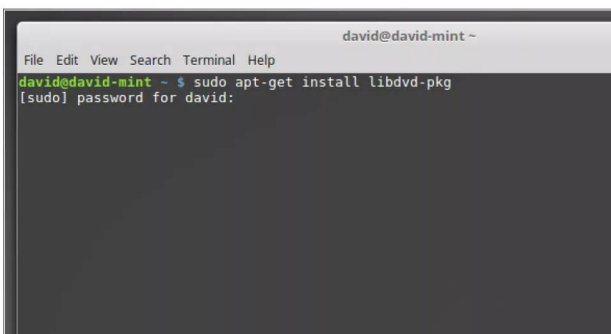
STEP 6

Click the Driver Manager app that appears as a result of the search and enter your password. Mint takes a moment to analyse what's available and presents you with a selection of potential drivers based on your detected hardware. Those with graphical problems, such as Software Rendering, should opt to use the latest, recommended Graphics driver.



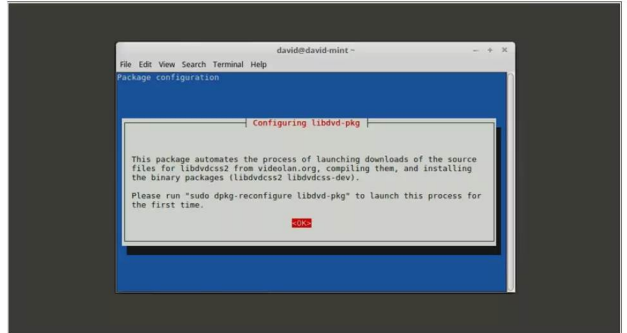
STEP 7

At this point you'll probably need to restart Linux Mint, so do that now. After a reboot click the Menu button again, followed by the Terminal. The Terminal icon is found in the left-hand column, above the Files icon. With the Terminal open, enter: `sudo apt-get install libdvd-pkg`, press Enter and type in your password. This enables encrypted DVD playback.



STEP 8

When asked to accept the changes, enter Y and also when asked to configure libdvd. Make sure OK is highlighted and press Enter, then Yes to any further questions. Next up, still in the Terminal, enter: `cat /proc/sys/vm/swappiness`; the result should be 60. If your computer has less than 4GB of RAM/memory, then enter: `gksudo xed /etc/sysctl.conf`.

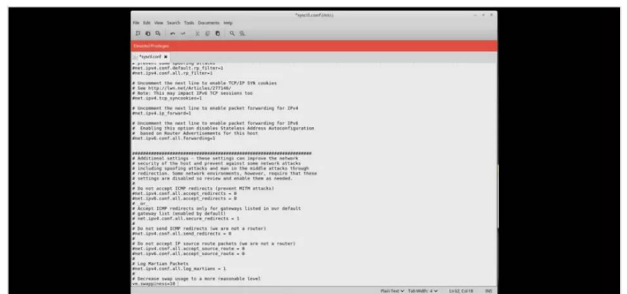


STEP 9

This tweak helps speed up systems with less than 4GB RAM/memory. Scroll down to the bottom of the file you just opened and add the following new lines:

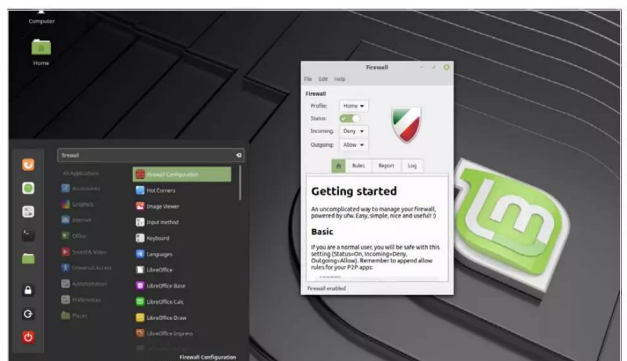
Decrease swap usage to a more reasonable level
`vm.swappiness=10`

Click File > Save, then File > Quit. Reboot Linux Mint and you should notice a slight hike in performance.



STEP 10

Security is always a concern in this modern digital age. While Linux Mint is a secure system, it's advisable to always try and improve it. Click the Menu button and search for Firewall; click the Firewall Configuration icon and enter your password. In the Firewall window, click the Status slider to On.





Apollo 11

DID YOU KNOW...

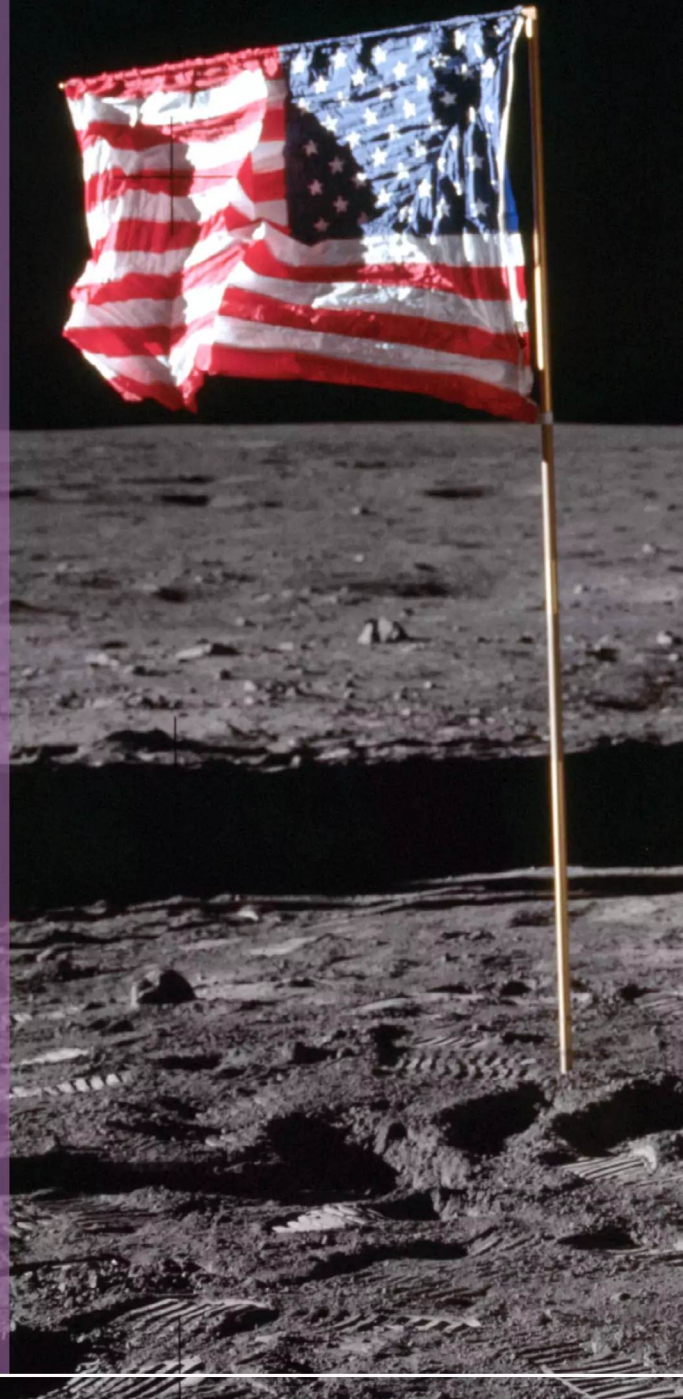
July 20th 1969 is remembered as a turning point in human history, when mankind first stepped on the moon. The software that helped the crew make that pivotal voyage didn't even exist at the time and had to be developed from scratch. Using a new method of storing programs called Rope Memory, the engineers at MIT Instrumentation Laboratory populated the memory with a special version of assembly.

Incredibly, that code is freely available to view on GitHub. Uploaded by a researcher in 2003, you can view the code by visiting www.github.com/chrislgarry/Apollo-11/. Look out for code snippets, such as `Burn_Baby_Burn`, in particular line 925 with the comment "Goodbye. Come again soon."

Have a look through, and see what else you can find.

```
915 TS      TEMPRES      # FOR GENERALIZED RETURN TO OTHER BANKS.
916 P40A/P TC      BANKCALL # SUBROUTINE TO CHECK PGNCS CONTROL
917 CADR    0+H,AUTO      # AND AUTO STABILIZATION MODES
918 CCS     A             # +0 INDICATES IN PGNCS, IN AUTO
919 TCF     TURNITON      # + INDICATES NOT IN PGNCS AND/OR AUTO
920 CAF     JPSFLBIT      # ARE WE ON THE DESCENT STAGE?
921 BASK    FLWDRD10
922 CCS     A
923 TCF     GOBACK        # RETURN
924 CAF     BITS          # YES, CHECK FOR AUTO-THROTTLE MODE
925 EXTEND
926 BARD    CHWDB
927 EXTEND
928 BZF     GOBACK        # IN AUTO-THROTTLE MODE -- RETURN
929 TURNITON CAF     P40A/PRD # DISPLAYS V30625 R1=203 PLEASE PERFORM
930 TC      BANKCALL      # CHECKLIST 303 TURN ON PGNCS ETC.
931 CADR    GOPERF1
932 TCF     GOTOPOWERH    # V306 TERMINATE
933 TCF     P40A/P        # RECYCLE
934 GOBACK  CA      TEMPRES
935 TC      BANK3UMP      # GOODBYE... COME AGAIN SOON.
936
937 P40A/PRD OCT     00203
938
939 # Page 749
940 BANK    36
941 SETLOC  P405
942 BANK
943
944 COUNT* 55/P40
945
946 # *****
947 # *****
948 # *****
949
950 SERVCADR = P63TABLE +7
951
952 P40ADRES ADRES P40TABLE
953
954 P41ADRES ADRES P41TABLE -5
955
956 P42ADRES ADRES P42TABLE
957
958 EBANK= DVCNTR
959 DSP2CADR 2CADR P43015PS -2
960
961 EBANK= DVCNTR
```

Programmers aren't without a sense a humour. See what else is in there.





One giant leap for
mankind, and coding.



Credit: Apollo 11/NASA



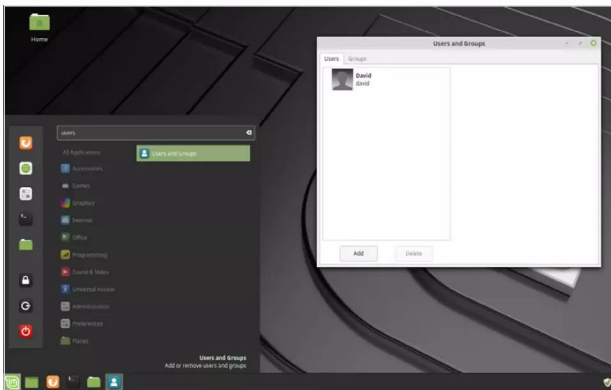
Creating Users

When you first install Linux Mint it is configured for use with a single user. While sharing a user account with the entire family is fine, there may come a time when you need to create separate users with their own unique Home folders.

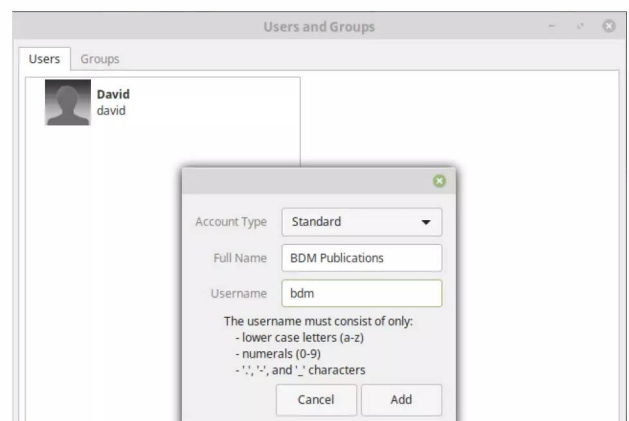
NEW USERS

Having different users means each user has access to his or hers own areas on the system. Documents, pictures, videos and so on are separate, as with multiple users on other operating systems.

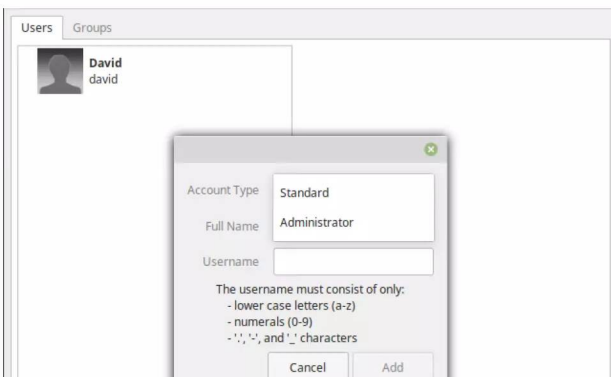
STEP 1 Click on the Linux Mint Menu and type 'users' to begin searching for the relevant console. From the search results, choose Users and Groups and enter your password. The Users and Groups console is quite basic looking, and thankfully easy to use. At first, you can just see your own username from when you installed Linux Mint.



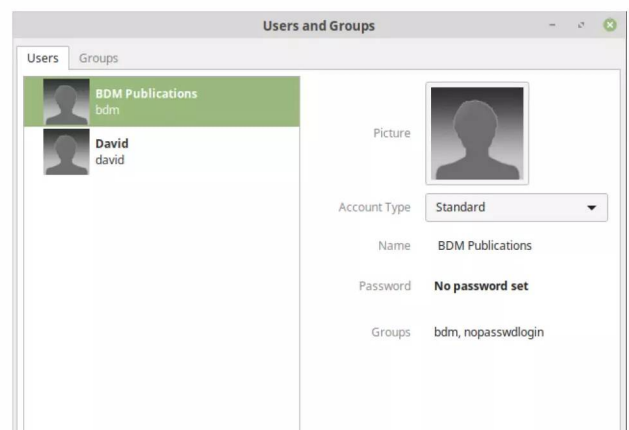
STEP 3 Enter the new user's Full Name, followed by the Username they need when logging into Linux Mint. Make sure the username is all in lower case, a-z and 0-9 characters only. You can have full stops, underscores or hyphens if you wish. Click the Add button when you're ready to continue.



STEP 2 To add a new user, click the Add button at the bottom of the console. There are two types of user you can create, Standard and Administrator. Unless the new user has need to install new apps or access parts of the file system beyond their Home folder, then opt for the Standard account type. Otherwise, use the Administrator account type.



STEP 4 The new user appears in the list of current Linux Mint users, in alphabetical order. At present, there's no password set so click the user in the list of current users, then click the No Password Set option under the user's username.



**STEP 5**

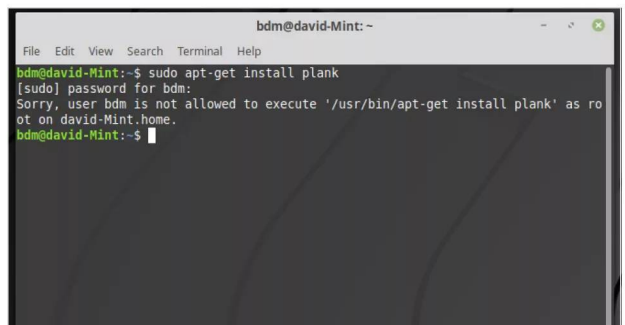
You can now enter a password for the new user or click the curled arrow at the end of the New Password text box to generate a password for you, as well as displaying it. Naturally, it's a good idea to come up with as strong a password as possible. When you're done, click the Change button.

**STEP 6**

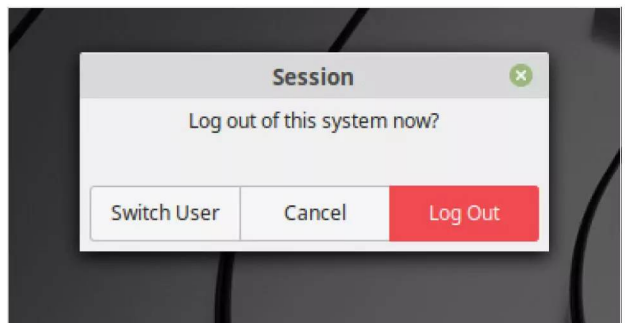
You can close the Users and Groups console window now, as the new user has been created. If you click the Mint Menu, followed by Logout, you are presented with the Mint Login Manager. The new user is now present in the list of currently available users. Click on him/her to log them in.

**STEP 7**

Once logged in the new user is required to set up their own desktop wallpaper, icons, Panel, Menu and so on. Depending on what Account Type you set up for them, Standard or Administrator, they won't be able to install any new apps. This screenshot is from a Standard user account type.

**STEP 8**

You can create as many new accounts as you need and you're able to switch between them when required. It's best to have just one account that's capable of installing new software, that way you can keep track of what's on your system.



COMMAND LINE ACCOUNTS

Just as you'd expect, you can also create a new user within the command Line. Open up a Terminal session under the main (yours) Administrator account.

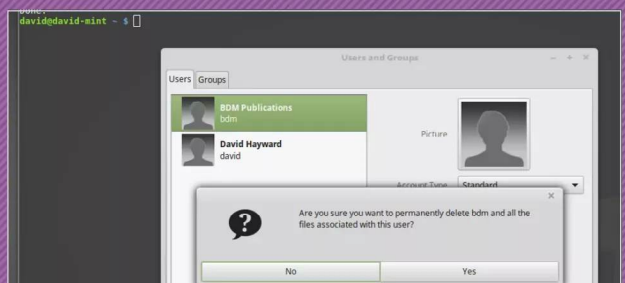
STEP 1

The process for adding a new user from the command line is relatively simple. To begin with, type: `sudo adduser <username>`, where `<username>` is the new user's login name. You're then asked to create a new password for the user, along with their full name and other details. Click y to confirm the details and create the user account.

```
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo adduser jim
Adding user 'jim' ...
Adding new group 'jim' (1002) ...
Adding new user 'jim' (1002) with group 'jim' ...
Creating home directory '/home/jim' ...
Copying files from '/etc/skel' ...
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for jim
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
Full Name []: Jim Gale
Room Number []:
Work Phone []:
Home Phone []:
Other []:
```

STEP 2

You can check the details and account type for the new user from within the Users and Groups console. If you want to delete a user from Mint, you can either enter: `sudo deluser <username>` in the Terminal or click the Delete button in Users and Groups.





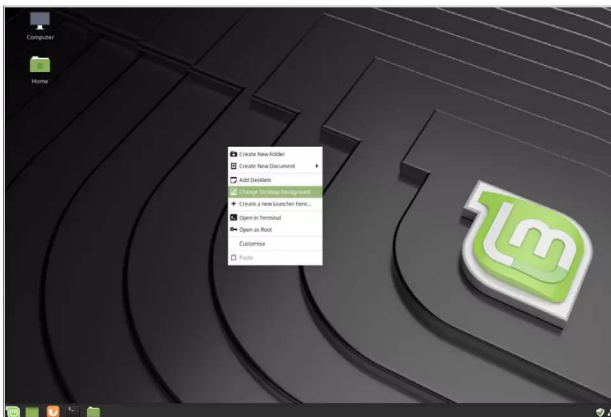
Customising the Desktop

Customising the operating system desktop is one way to make it your own: a personalised workspace that is there to help you work, inspire you or feature the company logo. Whatever your reasons for having your own desktop, here's how it's done.

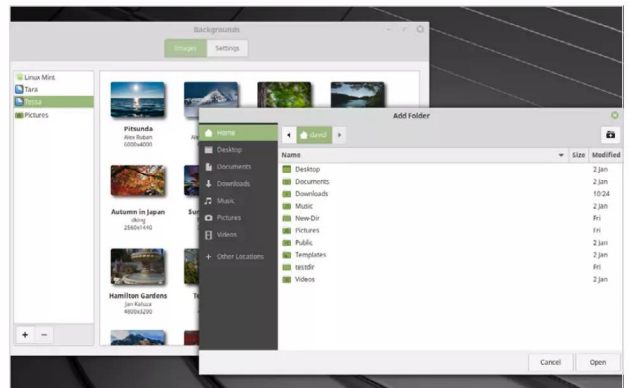
YOUR DESKTOP

Linux is probably one of the customisable operating systems there is. With just a few tweaks, one or two extras installed and some imagination, you can create something incredible.

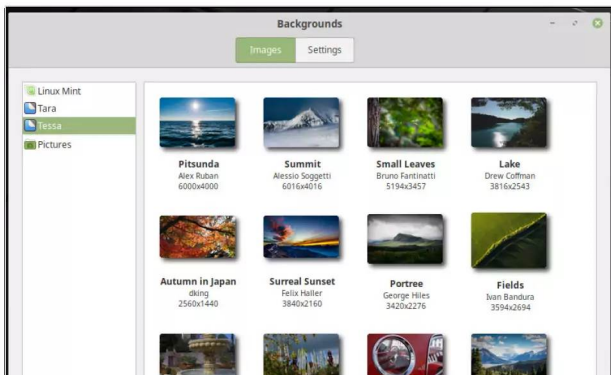
STEP 1 The first aspect of desktop customisation is to change the wallpaper. Right-click the desktop and choose Change Desktop Background. This opens the Backgrounds app in Linux Mint; remember, other distros may present their background, wallpaper selection tools differently.



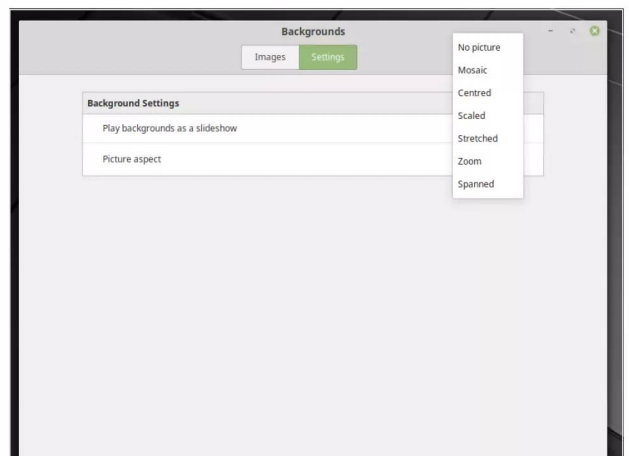
STEP 3 You just need to click the available images, from any of the locations provided to have them install as the desktop wallpaper. Incidentally, if you have images stored in another location on your system or network, you can add them by clicking on the Plus symbol at the bottom of the Backgrounds console, using the file manager to locate them.



STEP 2 More recent versions of Linux Mint display available backgrounds depending on the version the user is running. You normally get three categories followed by a fourth, Pictures, which is separated from the others. The Pictures option is different because it reads the image content from the Pictures folder in your Home area.

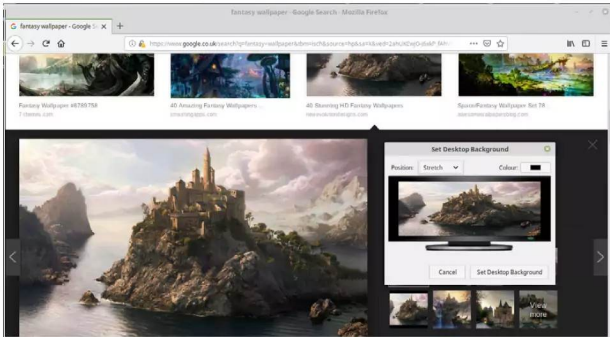


STEP 4 By clicking on the Settings tab you can, instead, play numerous images as a slideshow or change the aspect of the wallpapers to a variety of choices.

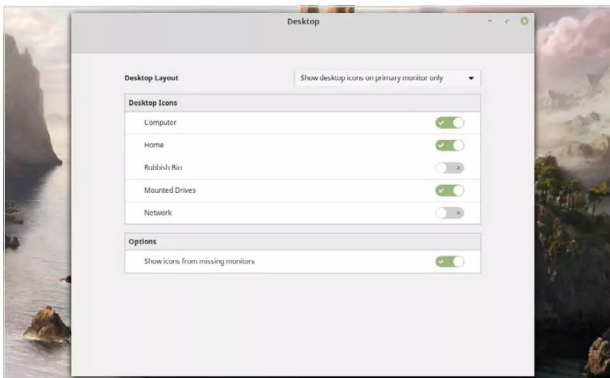


**STEP 5**

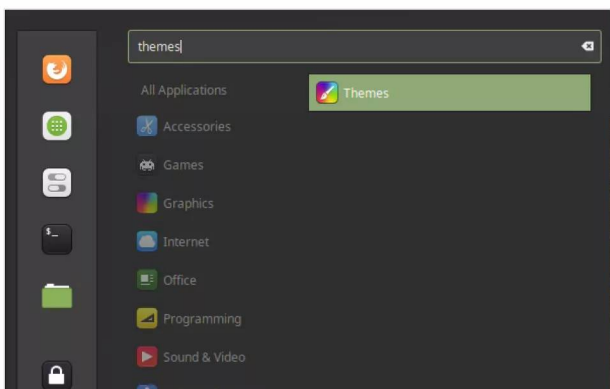
If none of the available wallpapers take your fancy, open a browser and search for the type of background image you prefer. When you've found the image you want as the desktop wallpaper, right-click it and choose Set As Desktop Background from the list of options. When the Set Desktop Background console open, click the Set Desktop Background button.

**STEP 6**

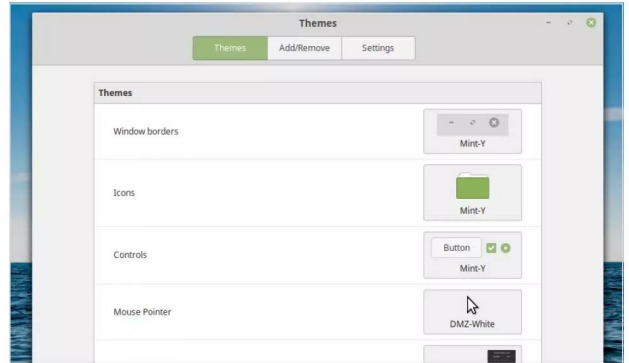
Click the Menu button and search for 'desktop' and click the Desktop Settings result. The Desktop console allows you to pick the layout, desktop icons and options for multi-monitor support you want. You can experiment with the options for the best setup, according to your personal tastes.

**STEP 7**

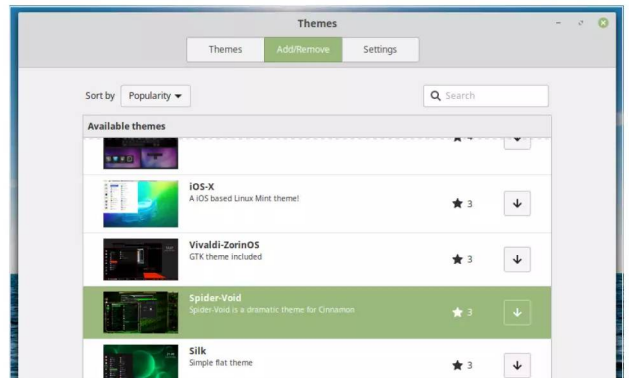
In addition to changing the desktop wallpaper, and how the icons are displayed, you can also alter the overall theme for Linux Mint. From the Mint Menu, search for 'themes' and click the Themes app as it appears in the search results.

**STEP 8**

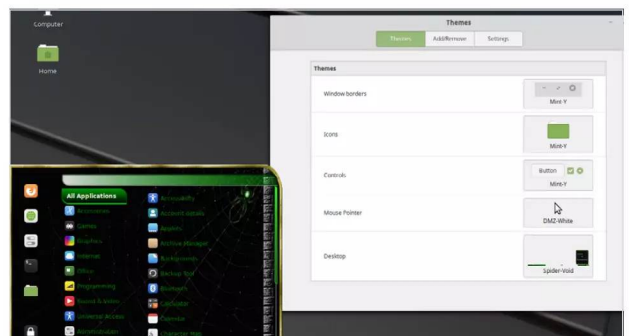
Themes allows you to change the way certain aspects of the Mint desktop look: Window Borders, Icons, Controls, Mouse Pointer and Desktop. In the Settings tab you can extend the options with a few on/off slider buttons, too.

**STEP 9**

If you click on the Add/remove button in the centre of the three available options, you can choose the default view from a number of preinstalled themes. Click the theme you want, then click the Install (downward-pointing arrow) button to enable it.

**STEP 10**

Click back on Themes, then Desktop and you can locate the newly installed theme and apply to your desktop. Any installed Themes can also be uninstalled via the Add/Remove button. It's worth spending some time personalising your desktop how you want it and there are some incredible themes available too.





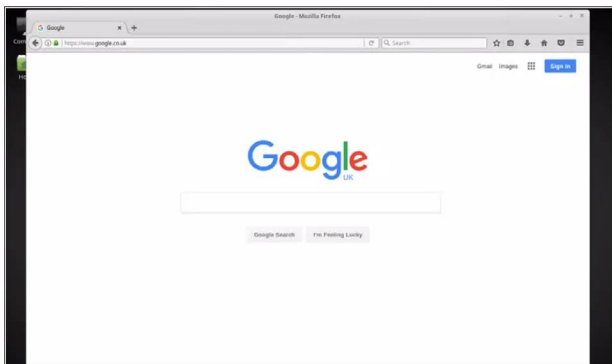
Becoming Anonymous Online

The digital age has led to many great advances in communications; however, it has also brought on a new age of spying and snooping. Most of us are no strangers to the frequent news stories of governments, secret organisations and underground hackers breaking our privacy but how can you combat this?

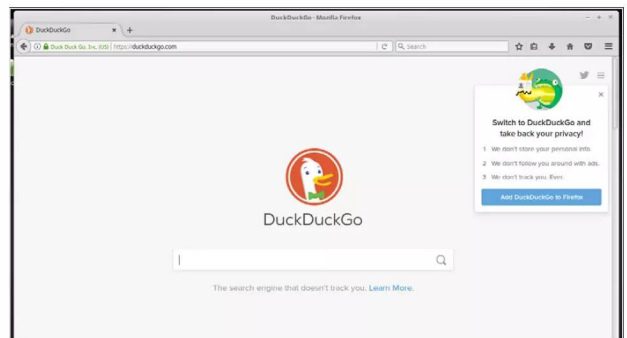
ANONYMITY WITH MINT

While it's virtually impossible to become totally anonymous online, you can take measures to ensure our privacy is at its best.

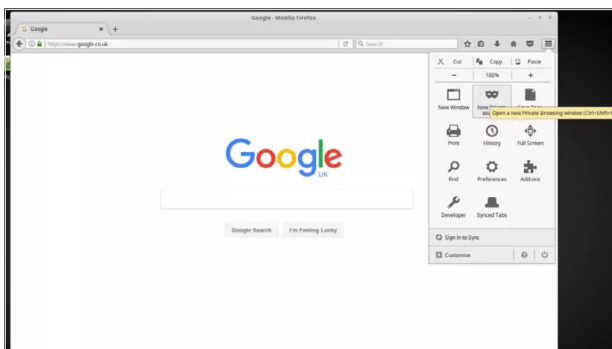
STEP 1 Starting with the basics, use HTTPS instead of the standard HTTP when browsing. This means that anything that's transmitted over HTTPS is secure (hence the S part at the end) and encrypted.



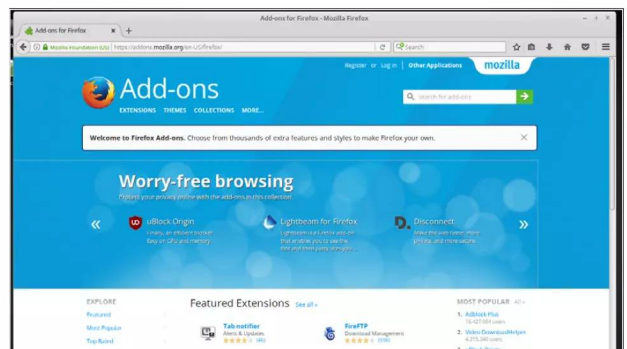
STEP 3 Although using Google may seem like the obvious choice for a modern Internet search, the company does track all searches made by an individual. Instead, consider an alternative search engine, such as DuckDuckGo, a search engine that doesn't store personal data or track you.



STEP 2 When you're browsing, consider using the Incognito or Private browsing modes available in a browser. This disables your web history and web cache, allowing you to browse without the details being stored for later scrutiny by someone else. However, it doesn't stop any data or search tracking.



STEP 4 If you're regularly on the Internet then consider installing some of the browser plug-ins that enhance your privacy. For example, for Firefox, use Ghostery, NoScript and Adblock Plus to block trackers, adverts and other data mining techniques.

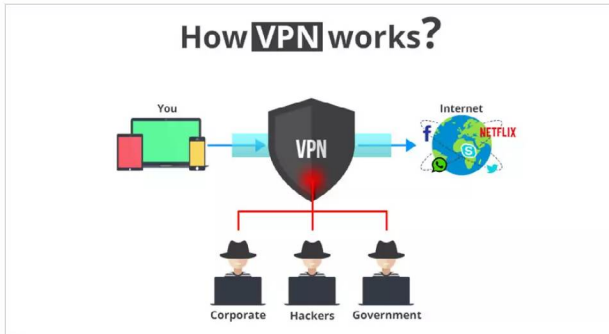




VPNS AND TOR

The previous steps can aid your online privacy but to really become anonymous you need a Virtual Private Network and Tor.

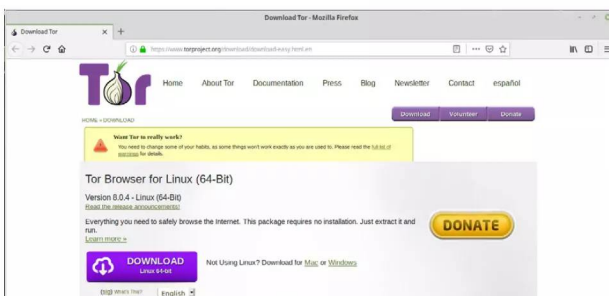
STEP 1 A VPN is a remote server, or cluster of servers, that establishes a connection with your computer. The end result is that your computer's identity on the Internet is hidden behind the VPN remote server; so you could live in the UK but have an IP address (the computer online identity) belonging to Iceland.



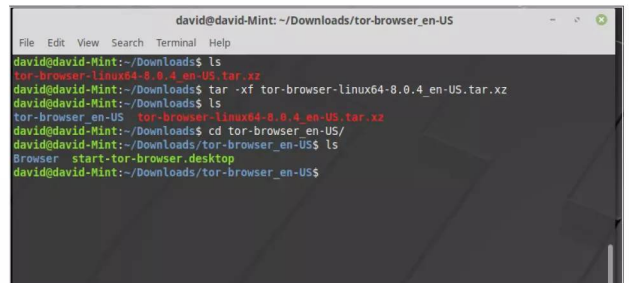
STEP 2 Most good VPNs charge a monthly or annual fee but it's worth the expense. We use CyberGhost, www.cyberghostvpn.com, which offers VPN connections for Windows, Mac, Mint (as well as other Linux distros), Android and iOS devices. Details for each OS can be found at www.support.cyberghostvpn.com/hc/en-us/articles/213190329-Read-me-first-.



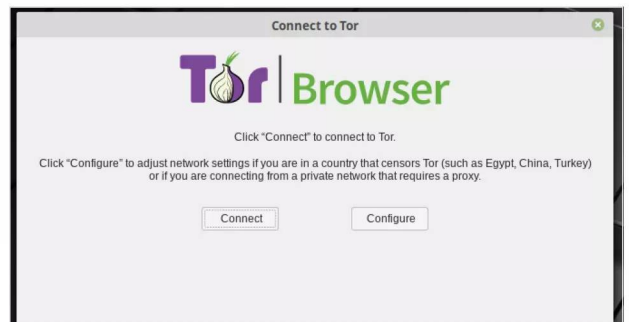
STEP 3 Another option is to use Tor. Tor is an open network that you can attach to that hides your IP address behind countless nodes around the world. It's available for Windows, Mac and Linux computers and is very easy to install and use. Start by navigating to www.torproject.org/download/download-easy.html.en and clicking on the Download Linux 64-bit button.



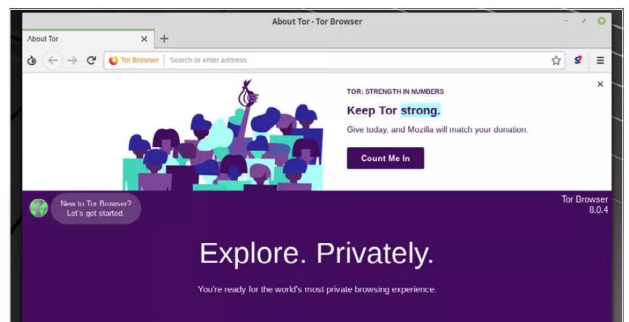
STEP 4 When the download has finished, drop into the Terminal and enter the Downloads folder, `cd Downloads/`. Enter `ls` to check the tar.xz Tor file is present, then enter: `tar -xvf tor-browser-linux64-8.0.4_en-US.tar.xz` (Tor is updated regularly, so if your version is different press Tab to autocomplete the `tor-browser-` filename). When the files are unpacked, use `cd tor-browser_en-US/` to enter the new folder.



STEP 5 A quick `ls` reveals a couple of entries: a folder called `Browser` and a file called `'start-tor-browser.desktop'`. To start the Tor setup, type `./start-tor-browser.desktop`. This command launches the Tor setup, where you are offered two options: `Connect` or `Configure`. For most users, the `Connect` option will suffice. Click `Connect` when you're ready.



STEP 6 After the connection is established, the Tor Browser launches. This is a customised version of Firefox and from here you can securely browse the Internet without fear of being viewed or tracked. Mixing both a VPN and Tor makes for an extremely secure and private connection to the online world.





“Linux: the operating system with a CLUE... Command Line User Environment.”

– Anonymous (Posted on comp. software.testing)



Using the Terminal

The Linux command line, the Terminal, is an incredibly powerful environment. From it, you can bring the OS to its knees, or update it to something spectacular. You can hack into remote computers, look at an animated ASCII camp fire, install new apps and programs, watch Star Wars played out from a server in the Netherlands, and code intricate automated scripts.

In this section you will explore the intricacies of the Terminal, and how it works with Linux. You will learn how to manipulate the Linux file system from the Terminal, and you will discover some odd, but fun things you can do in the Terminal.

The Terminal rules supreme in the world of Linux. Learn how it works, and you can access all that power.



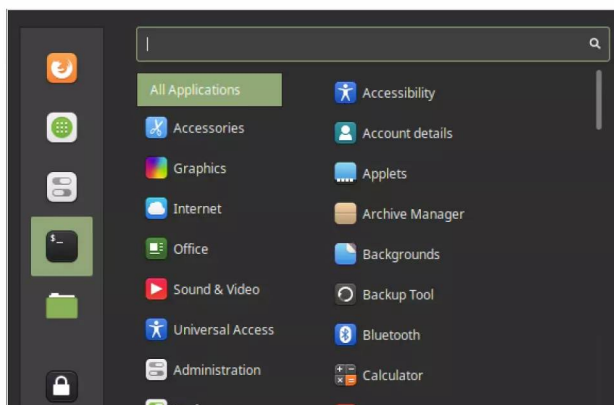
Basics of the Terminal

Most operating systems use two kinds of interface, the GUI, which is the desktop that Windows, macOS and Linux Mint boot into and the command line. While modern operating systems shy away from the command line, Mint uses the Terminal to give the user greater control of the system.

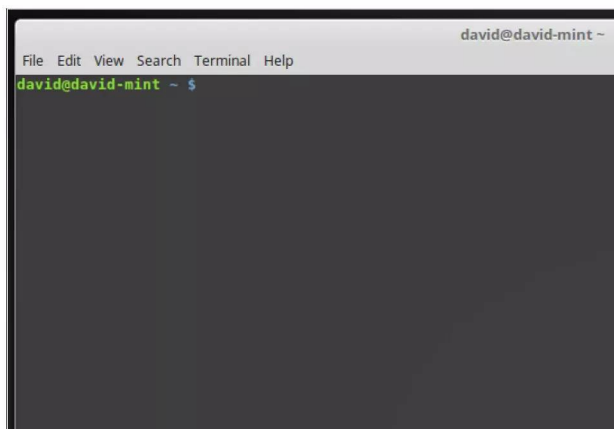
TAKING COMMAND

The command line, or Terminal, is an extremely powerful interface. Everything you can do on the desktop can be done within the Terminal. Let's start by seeing how it works.

STEP 1 The Terminal can be accessed by either clicking on the Terminal icon on the Panel, located between the Firefox and Files icons or launched by opening the Menu and selecting it from the left-hand quick launch strip.



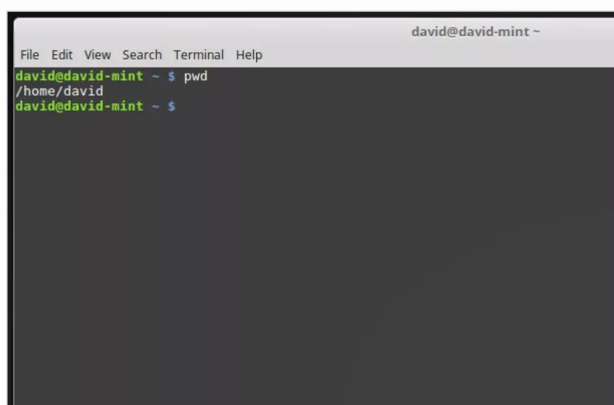
STEP 2 The Terminal gives you access to the Linux Mint Shell, called Bash, which gives you access to the underlying operating system. Everything in Mint, including the desktop and GUI, is a module running from the command line.



STEP 3 What you currently see in the Terminal is your login name followed by the name of the computer; as you named it during setup when you first installed Mint. The line then ends with the current folder name; at first this is just a tilde ~, which means your Home folder.



STEP 4 The flashing cursor at the very end of the line is where your text-based commands are entered. You can begin to experiment with a simple command, Print Working Directory (pwd), which outputs the current folder you're in to the screen. Type **pwd** and press Enter.





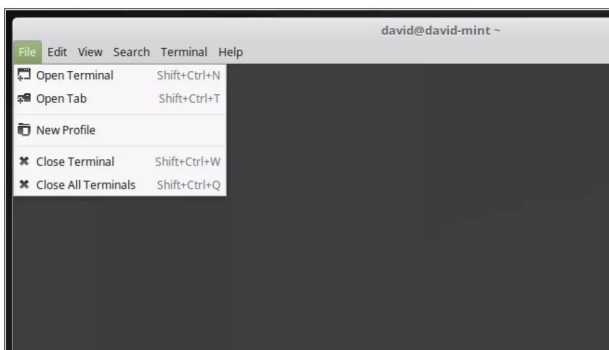
STEP 5

All the commands you enter work in the same manner: you enter the command, include any parameters to extend the use of the command and press Enter to execute the command line you've entered. Type into the Terminal: `uname -a` and press Enter. This displays some system information regarding Mint.

```
david@david-mint ~
$ pwd
/home/david
david@david-mint ~$ uname -a
Linux david-mint 4.4.0-53-generic #74-Ubuntu SMP Fri Dec 2 15:59:10 UTC 2016 x86_64 x86_64 x86_64 GNU/Linux
david@david-mint ~$
```

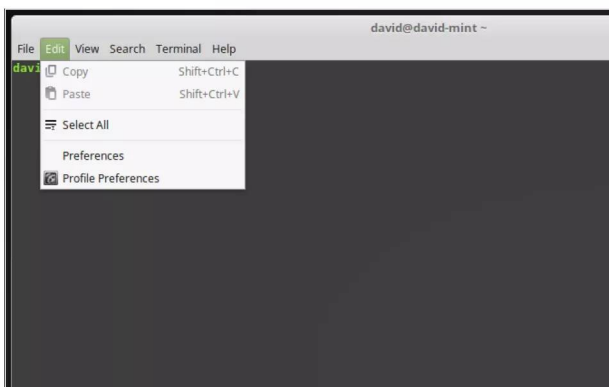
STEP 6

Before we get into entering commands, let's take a moment to see what menus the Terminal has to offer. The File menu option allows you to open a new Terminal, create a new profile, where you can alter the size, colours and behaviour of the Terminal, add a new tab, and close all current active Terminal sessions.



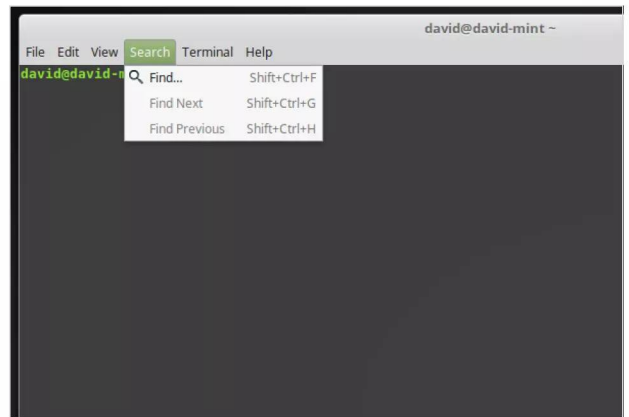
STEP 7

The Edit option lets you copy and paste commands to and from the Terminal and other sources; handy for when you want to copy a very long and complex command from a web page. It also allows you to edit the current profile preferences.



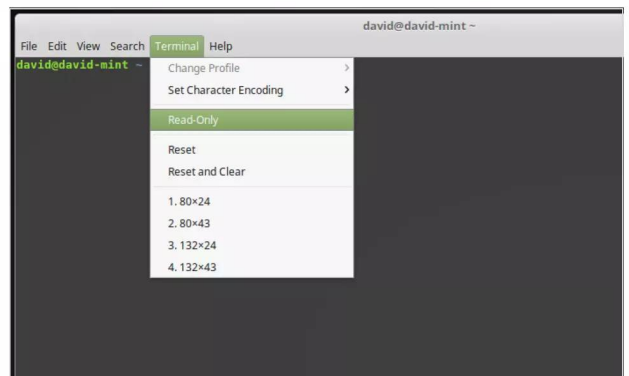
STEP 8

View and Search options let you alter the sizing of the Terminal window and of course search within the Terminal for any particular key words.



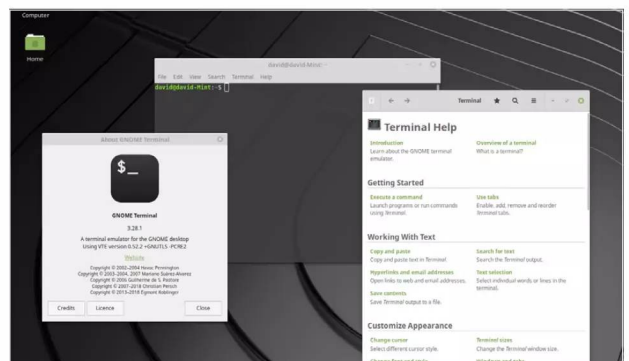
STEP 9

The Terminal entry extends the profile editing and sizing and allows you to alter the character encoding. Interestingly, you can also set it to a Read Only mode, which stops you from entering any commands into the Terminal; this is good for when you need to permanently display the Terminal contents.



STEP 10

Finally, the Help option displays the help contents and version number of the Terminal, or to be more precise, GNOME Terminal; we'll simply refer to it as Terminal in future. The Contents are worth having a quick read through, to help familiarise yourself with how the Terminal works.





Update Mint via the Terminal

Up to now you've been using the shield icon to launch Mint Update Manager in order to update the system and upgrade the currently installed apps, tools and other elements. However, you can also accomplish a complete system update and upgrade from the Terminal.

USING APT-GET

To update and upgrade via the Terminal you use the APT (Advanced Packaging Tool) command. It's a powerful command and combines different elements depending on its use.

STEP 1 Start by opening a new Terminal or if you already have one opened clear its contents with the clear command. This starts you off with a clean slate on which to work.

```
david@david-mint ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ clear
```

STEP 2 Enter: `apt-get` into the Terminal. This brings up a list of the most used `apt-get` commands, along with a brief description of what the command does. It's worth having a look at, even if it doesn't make a huge amount of sense at this time.

```
david@david-mint ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ apt-get  
apt 1.2.19 (amd64)  
Usage: apt-get [options] command  
apt-get [options] install|remove pkg1 [pkg2 ...]  
apt-get [options] source pkg1 [pkg2 ...]  
  
apt-get is a command line interface for retrieval of packages  
and information about them from authenticated sources and  
for installation, upgrade and removal of packages together  
with their dependencies.  
  
Most used commands:  
update - Retrieve new lists of packages  
upgrade - Perform an upgrade  
install - Install new packages (pkg is libc6 not libc6.deb)  
remove - Remove packages  
purge - Remove packages and config files  
autoremove - Remove all unused packages automatically  
dist-upgrade - Distribution upgrade, see apt-get(8)  
dselect-upgrade - Follow dselect selections  
build-dep - Configure build-dependencies for source packages  
clean - Erase downloaded archive files  
autoclean - Erase old downloaded archive files  
check - Verify that there are no broken dependencies  
source - Download source archives  
download - Download the binary package into the current directory
```

STEP 3 `apt-get` is used to update and upgrade the software in Mint, as well as Ubuntu and other Debian-based distros. Using the Update element retrieves new package lists and updates the list of source files. Upgrade downloads and performs an upgrade to the latest versions of those files. To start the entire Upgrade and Update process, enter: `sudo apt-get update`, followed by your password.

```
david@david-mint ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update  
[sudo] password for david:  
Get:1 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-security InRelease [102 kB]  
Hit:2 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease  
Hit:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease  
Ign:4 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena InRelease  
Get:5 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-updates InRelease [102 kB]  
Hit:6 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena Release  
Get:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-backports InRelease [102 kB]  
Fetched 306 kB in 0s (1,032 kB/s)  
Reading package lists... Done  
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 4 Notice now the addition of the `sudo` command. The `sudo` command once meant Super User Do; these days it's more acceptable as Substitute User Do. It means that the administrative user (Super User) uses APT (Advanced Packaging Tool) to Get any Updates. Now try this: `sudo apt-get upgrade`.

```
david@david-mint ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get upgrade  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree  
Reading state information... Done  
Calculating upgrade... Done  
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:  
libgkeyfile1.0-cil libgnome-keyring1.0-cil libmono-accessibility4.0-cil libmono-data-tds4.0-cil  
libmono-ldap4.0-cil libmono-sqlite4.0-cil libmono-system-componentmodel-dataannotations4.0-cil  
libmono-system-data4.0-cil libmono-system-design4.0-cil libmono-system-enterpriseservices4.0-cil  
libmono-system-ldap4.0-cil libmono-system-numerics4.0-cil  
libmono-system-runtime-serialization-formatters-soap4.0-cil  
libmono-system-runtime-serialization4.0-cil libmono-system-servicemodel-internals0.0-cil  
libmono-system-transactions4.0-cil libmono-system-web-applicationservices4.0-cil  
libmono-system-web-services4.0-cil libmono-system-web4.0-cil libmono-system-windows-forms4.0-cil  
libmono-system-xml-linq4.0-cil libmono-webbrowser4.0-cil libnotify0.4-cil libstdl2-2.0-0 libs  
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.  
The following packages will be upgraded:  
apt apt-transport-https apt-utils cifs-utils gir1.2-gtk-3.0 grub-common grub-pc grub-pc-bin  
grub2-common libapt-inst2.0 libapt-pkg5.0 libgail-3.0 libgtk-3.0 libgtk-3-bin libgtk-3-common  
linux-libc-dev thermald  
17 to upgrade, 0 to newly install, 0 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.  
Need to get 9,255 kB of archives.  
After this operation, 36.9 kB of additional disk space will be used.  
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```




STEP 5 Depending on the state of your updates, if you have any waiting to be installed, you might be asked if you want to apply the results of the `sudo apt-get upgrade` command. You can press `y` to accept and continue. What's happening here is that apt-get has some updated software to apply to Mint, and you're okaying the action.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Leaving diversion of /usr/sbin/update-icon-caches to /usr/sbin/update-icon-caches.gtk2 by libgtk-3-bin
Leaving diversion of /usr/share/man/man8/update-icon-caches.8.gz to /usr/share/man/man8/update-icon-caches.gtk2.8.gz by libgtk-3-bin
Unpacking libgtk-3-bin (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.2) over (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.2) ...
Preparing to unpack .../linux-libc-dev_4.4.0-75.96 amd64.deb ...
Unpacking linux-libc-dev:amd64 (4.4.0-75.96) over (4.4.0-67.88) ...
Preparing to unpack .../thermald_1.5-2ubuntu4 amd64.deb ...
Unpacking thermald (1.5-2ubuntu4) over (1.5-2ubuntu3) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.7.5-1) ...
Processing triggers for dbus (1.10.6-1ubuntu3.3) ...
Processing triggers for ureadahead (0.100.0-19) ...
Processing triggers for systemd (229-4ubuntu16) ...
Setting up apt-utils (1.2.20) ...
Setting up grub-common (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
update-rc.d: warning: start and stop actions are no longer supported; falling back to defaults
Setting up grub2-common (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Setting up grub-pc-bin (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Setting up grub-pc (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Installing for i386-pc platform.
Installation finished. No error reported.
Generating grub configuration file ...
Warning: Setting GRUB_TIMEOUT to a non-zero value when GRUB_HIDDEN_TIMEOUT is set is no longer supported.
Found linux image: /boot/vmlinuz-4.4.0-53-generic
Found initrd image: /boot/initrd.img-4.4.0-53-generic
Found memtest86+ image: /boot/memtest86+.elf
Found memtest86+ image: /boot/memtest86+.bin
done
Setting up libgail-3.0:amd64 (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.3) ...
Setting up apt-transports-https (1.2.20) ...
Setting up cifs-utils (2.6.4-1ubuntu1.1) ...
Setting up gir1.2-gtk-3.0:amd64 (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.3) ...
Setting up libgtk-3-bin (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.3) ...
```

STEP 6 There's likely to be a long list of what seems gibberish now filling your Terminal window but don't worry. The files necessary for the upgrade have been downloaded, prepared, unpacked, processed, installed and set up correctly. There's a lot going on when you perform an upgrade, even with the smallest package.

```
Unpacking libgtk-3-bin (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.3) over (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.2) ...
Preparing to unpack .../linux-libc-dev_4.4.0-75.96 amd64.deb ...
Unpacking linux-libc-dev:amd64 (4.4.0-75.96) over (4.4.0-67.88) ...
Preparing to unpack .../thermald_1.5-2ubuntu4 amd64.deb ...
Unpacking thermald (1.5-2ubuntu4) over (1.5-2ubuntu3) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.7.5-1) ...
Processing triggers for dbus (1.10.6-1ubuntu3.3) ...
Processing triggers for ureadahead (0.100.0-19) ...
Processing triggers for systemd (229-4ubuntu16) ...
Setting up apt-utils (1.2.20) ...
Setting up grub-common (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
update-rc.d: warning: start and stop actions are no longer supported; falling back to defaults
Setting up grub2-common (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Setting up grub-pc-bin (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Setting up grub-pc (2.02-beta2-36ubuntu3.9) ...
Installing for i386-pc platform.
Installation finished. No error reported.
Generating grub configuration file ...
Warning: Setting GRUB_TIMEOUT to a non-zero value when GRUB_HIDDEN_TIMEOUT is set is no longer supported.
Found linux image: /boot/vmlinuz-4.4.0-53-generic
Found initrd image: /boot/initrd.img-4.4.0-53-generic
Found memtest86+ image: /boot/memtest86+.elf
Found memtest86+ image: /boot/memtest86+.bin
done
Setting up libgail-3.0:amd64 (3.18.9-1ubuntu3.3) ...
Setting up apt-transports-https (1.2.20) ...
Setting up cifs-utils (2.6.4-1ubuntu1.1) ...
```

STEP 7 Essentially, that's it, your system is now up to date according to the available list of packages from the apt-get update command. You can run through the process one more time, just to check if everything went okay. To recap, enter: `sudo apt-get update`, press Enter, then type: `sudo apt-get upgrade` and press Enter.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update
Hit:1 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Get:2 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-security InRelease [102 kB]
Hit:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Ign:4 http://www.mirror-service.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena InRelease
Get:5 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial updates InRelease [102 kB]
Hit:6 http://www.mirror-service.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena Release
Get:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-backports InRelease [102 kB]
Fetched 306 kB in 0s (1,096 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get upgrade
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
libgkeyfile1.0-cil libgnome-keyring1.0-cil libmono-accessibility4.0-cil libmono-data
libmono-ldap4.0-cil libmono-sqlite4.0-cil libmono-system-componentmodel-dataannotat
libmono-system-data4.0-cil libmono-system-design4.0-cil libmono-system-enterprises
libmono-system-ldap4.0-cil libmono-system-numerics4.0-cil
libmono-system-runtime-serialization-formatters-soap4.0-cil
libmono-system-runtime-serialization4.0-cil libmono-system-servicemodel-internals0
libmono-system-transactions4.0-cil libmono-system-web-applicationservices4.0-cil
libmono-system-web-services4.0-cil libmono-system-web4.0-cil libmono-system-window
```

STEP 8 Interestingly, Linux Mint, among other distros, offers you the ability to chain several commands together. In this example, therefore, we can use `sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade`. The double ampersand is what combines the commands and works perfectly, providing the preceding command went without a hitch. It's recommended to start any session with the update and upgrade command.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade
Hit:1 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Hit:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Ign:3 http://www.mirror-service.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena InRelease
Get:4 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial updates InRelease [102 kB]
Hit:5 http://www.mirror-service.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena Release
Get:6 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-backports InRelease [102 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-security InRelease [102 kB]
Fetched 306 kB in 0s (595 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
libgkeyfile1.0-cil libgnome-keyring1.0-cil libmono-accessibility4.0-cil libmono-da
libmono-ldap4.0-cil libmono-sqlite4.0-cil libmono-system-componentmodel-dataannotat
libmono-system-data4.0-cil libmono-system-design4.0-cil libmono-system-enterprises
libmono-system-ldap4.0-cil libmono-system-numerics4.0-cil
libmono-system-runtime-serialization-formatters-soap4.0-cil
libmono-system-runtime-serialization4.0-cil libmono-system-servicemodel-internals0
libmono-system-transactions4.0-cil libmono-system-web-applicationservices4.0-cil
libmono-system-web-services4.0-cil libmono-system-web4.0-cil libmono-system-window
```

TERMINAL VS UPDATE MANAGER?

Why use the Terminal to update and upgrade over the Update Manager, regardless of the distro you're using? Some users greatly prefer using the Terminal to update their Linux systems and accompanying apps, in the belief that it's better. However, that's not often the case.

Using the Terminal, apt-get upgrade, doesn't handle changing dependencies between versions of packages, so if a package has its dependent files changed from one version to another, then the upgrade is held back.

The Update Manager, or Software Manager (depending on the distro), often phases its updates and marks those packages

with changed dependencies for updating. However, and this is where Linux can often get confusing, sometimes it doesn't.

It all boils down to the developer of the package being updated and the way the package is held in the distro's repositories and whether the update is classified as stable or not. In essence, from the point of view of the user, if you update and upgrade using both the Terminal and the Update Manager regularly, then you will be as up to date as possible, and get the essential and necessary stable versions of the packages and core software. If you're looking for cutting edge package updates, then it's best to opt for a rolling release distro instead.



Install Apps via the Terminal – Part 1

There are different ways to install apps and programs on Linux. You can opt for the graphical route, using a Software Manager, or you can use the Terminal. Often, the Terminal provides better control over the software being installed and sometimes, you have no choice in the matter.

COMMAND LINE INSTALLS

Installing an app with the Terminal may require some nifty keyboard work but you get a better sense of what's being installed and where.

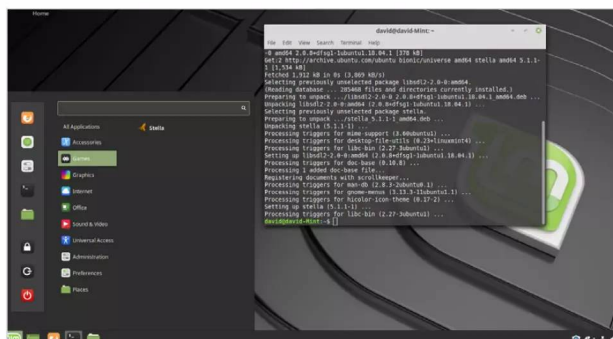
STEP 1 Installing apps from the Terminal is often relatively simple. First though, you need to make sure that the system is up to date. To do this open up the Terminal and enter: `sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade`. Enter your password and accept any necessary updates.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade
Hit:1 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Hit:2 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena InRelease
Hit:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Hit:4 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena Release
Get:5 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-updates InRelease [102 kB]
Get:6 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-backports InRelease [102 kB]
Get:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-security InRelease [102 kB]
Fetched 306 kB in 0s (582 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
0 to upgrade, 0 to newly install, 0 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 2 Just as you've seen, `sudo apt-get update/upgrade` and so on are designed to upgrade the software that's already installed on the system. How do you install more apps though? It just so happens that it's extraordinarily simple. First you need an app to install, so let's use Stella again. Enter: `sudo apt-get install stella`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get install stella
```

STEP 3 You need to enter `y` to confirm the installation, which takes up around 5.5MB of storage in the system. Once Stella is installed, you can see again that Mint has automatically created the Games category in the Menu as well as the app shortcut.



STEP 4 Sometimes, when installing software, you need to add the app's Repository. The repository, or repo, is simply the remote server location where the software is held, along with all its dependencies (the vital libraries and such it needs to function). Start by typing in this: `sudo add-apt-repository ppa:peterlevi/ppa`. Press Enter when asked to and add the PPA (Personal Package Archive).

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo add-apt-repository ppa:peterlevi/ppa
You are about to add the following PPA:
Contains packages for the Variety wallpaper changer
http://launchpad.net/variety
More info: https://launchpad.net/~peterlevi/+archive/ubuntu/ppa
Press Enter to continue or Ctrl+C to cancel
```



STEP 5 This adds the repo for the app Variety Wallpaper Changer, an Ubuntu-based app that works in Mint and changes the wallpaper automatically. Now that the repo is added, enter: `sudo apt-get update`, to update the new information and add the contents of the repo to the package database.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo add-apt-repository ppa:peterlevi/ppa
You are about to add the following PPA:
Contains packages for the Variety wallpaper changer
http://launchpad.net/variety
More info: https://launchpad.net/~peterlevi/archive/ubuntu/ppa
Press Enter to continue or Ctrl+C to cancel
Executing: /tmp/tmp.uy5H2K12/gpg.1.sh --keyserver
hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80
--recv-keys
A5408E4F
gpg: requesting key A5408E4F from hkp server keyserver.ubuntu.com
gpg: key A5408E4F: public key "Launchpad PPA for Peter Levi" imported
gpg: Total number processed: 1
gpg:   imported: 1 (RSA: 1)
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update
Get:1 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial InRelease [17.5 kB]
Get:2 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-security InRelease [102 kB]
Get:3 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Get:4 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Get:5 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena InRelease
Get:6 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-updates InRelease [102 kB]
Get:7 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.com/packages serena Release
Get:8 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-backports InRelease [109 kB]
Get:9 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 Packages [102 B]
Get:10 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial/main amd64 Packages [844 B]
Get:11 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial/main i386 Packages [844 B]
Get:12 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial/main Translation-en [548 B]
Fetched 377 kB in 0s (712 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
```

STEP 6 Now to install Variety, enter: `sudo apt-get install variety`. Press y to confirm and accept the installation, and to continue with the install. Once installed, you can type `variety` into the Terminal to run the app.

```
Selecting previously unselected package libgexiv2-2:amd64.
(Reading database ... 365690 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../libgexiv2-2_0.10.8-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking libgexiv2-2:amd64 (0.10.8-1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package gir1.2-gexiv2-0.10:amd64.
Preparing to unpack .../gir1.2-gexiv2-0.10.8-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking gir1.2-gexiv2-0.10:amd64 (0.10.8-1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package variety.
Preparing to unpack .../variety_0.7.0-git201809151602.8eff230-ppa768-ubuntu18.04.1_all.deb ...
Unpacking variety (0.7.0-git201809151602.8eff230-ppa768-ubuntu18.04.1) ...
Processing triggers for mime-support (3.60ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.23+linuxmint4) ...
Setting up libgexiv2-2:amd64 (0.10.8-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.27-3ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.3-2ubuntu0.1) ...
Processing triggers for gnome-menus (3.13.3-11ubuntu1.1) ...
Processing triggers for hicolor-icon-theme (0.17-2) ...
Setting up gir1.2-gexiv2-0.10:amd64 (0.10.8-1) ...
Setting up variety (0.7.0-git201809151602.8eff230-ppa768-ubuntu18.04.1) ...
david@david-Mint:~$
david@david-Mint:~$
david@david-Mint:~$ variety
```

REMOVING APPS

In addition to installing apps, the `apt` command can also be used to remove any apps and helps keep the system tidy and free up resources.

STEP 1 To uninstall, or remove, the Variety app enter the following: `sudo apt-get remove variety`. Enter y to continue with the uninstall of the app; notice also that you're informed of how much space you're freeing up on the hard drive as a result of removing the app.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get remove variety
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libboost-python1.58.0 python-pyexiv2 variety-slideshow
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following packages will be REMOVED:
  variety
0 to upgrade, 0 to newly install, 1 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.
After this operation, 2,442 kB disk space will be freed.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```

STEP 3 When you remove apps from the system you're be informed that some packages that were automatically installed are no longer required. You already saw in the previous tutorial, that you can tidy things up with the following command: `sudo apt-get autoremove`, followed by pressing y to accept the process.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get autoremove
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following packages will be REMOVED:
  libboost-python1.58.0 python-pyexiv2 variety-slideshow
0 to upgrade, 0 to newly install, 3 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.
After this operation, 1,160 kB disk space will be freed.
Do you want to continue? [Y/n]
```

STEP 2 While the '`apt-get remove`' command uninstalls an app, it doesn't get rid of the extra clutter that comes with an app, such as configuration and library files. To completely remove the clutter, enter: `sudo apt-get purge variety`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get purge variety
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Package 'variety' is not installed, so not removed
The following packages were automatically installed and are no longer required:
  libboost-python1.58.0 python-pyexiv2 variety-slideshow
Use 'sudo apt autoremove' to remove them.
0 to upgrade, 0 to newly install, 0 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 4 Finally, to tidy up all the non-used packages in the system, and to remove elements that the autoremove command didn't, you can enter: `sudo apt-get autoclean`. These last few steps are vital for keeping your Linux Mint setup in good working order and to trim off the unnecessary excess caused by installations and upgrades.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get autoclean
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
david@david-mint ~ $
```




Install Apps via the Terminal – Part 2

Most of the time you'll get to install apps from the Terminal using the standard `apt-get` command. However, sometimes an app demands a little more work. This means installing an app from its source code, which isn't as scary as it first sounds.

FROM THE SOURCE

The commands you'll need to become familiar with here are `Configure`, `Make` and `Install`. You'll find a lot of apps use installing from source, so it's certainly a skill worth investing time in.

STEP 1 Source code files for Linux usually come in the form of .TAR.GZ or .TAR.BZ2. Both are compressed files holding all the core files needed to 'make' the app. Start off this tutorial by creating a new folder in Home: `mkdir Vim`.

```
david@david-mint ~$ mkdir Vim
david@david-mint ~$
```

STEP 2 Vim, by the way, is an advanced text editor which we'll use as an example to install. Enter the new folder, `cd Vim`, then from within the new Vim folder, enter the following command into the Terminal: `wget ftp://ftp.vim.org/pub/vim/unix/vim-7.4.tar.bz2`.

```
david@david-mint ~$ cd Vim
david@david-mint ~/Vim$ wget ftp://ftp.vim.org/pub/vim/unix/vim-7.4.tar.bz2
--2017-04-26 09:51:40--  ftp://ftp.vim.org/pub/vim/unix/vim-7.4.tar.bz2
=> 'vim-7.4.tar.bz2'
Resolving ftp.vim.org (ftp.vim.org)... 2001:67c:6ec:221:145:220:21:40, 145.220.21.40
Connecting to ftp.vim.org (ftp.vim.org)|2001:67c:6ec:221:145:220:21:40|:21... connected.
Logging in as anonymous ... Logged in!
=> SYST ... done.      => PWD ... done.
=> TYPE I ... done.    => CWD (/pub/vim/unix) ... done.
=> SIZE vim-7.4.tar.bz2 ... 9843297
=> EPSV ... done.     => RETR vim-7.4.tar.bz2 ... done.
Length: 9843297 (9.4M) (unauthoritative)

vim-7.4.tar.bz2 100%[=====] 9.39M 7.02MB/s in 1.3s
2017-04-26 09:51:42 (7.02 MB/s) - 'vim-7.4.tar.bz2' saved [9843297]
david@david-mint ~/Vim$
```

STEP 3 The `wget` command retrieves content from the internet, in this case the .BZ2 file for Vim. To check the file was downloaded successfully, enter: `ls`. According to Mint's file system colour key, the compressed file should be displayed in red.

```
david@david-mint ~/Vim$ ls
vim-7.4.tar.bz2
```

STEP 4 We need to uncompress the contents of the file now, so enter: `tar -xvf vim-7.4.tar.bz2` into the Terminal. Note: you can type in `tar -xvf v` and press the `Tab` key to auto-fill the remaining file name.

```
david@david-mint ~/Vim$ tar -xvf vim-7.4.tar.bz2
vim-7.4/
vim-7.4/Makefile
vim-7.4/README.txt
vim-7.4/TODO.txt
vim-7.4/autogen.sh
vim-7.4/bin/
vim-7.4/doc/
vim-7.4/patches/
vim-7.4/src/
```




```
Kernel command line: block2mtd.block2mtd=/dev/hda2,131072,rootfs root=/dev/mtdblock0 rootfstype=jffs2 init=/etc/preinit noinitrd console=tty0 console=ttyS0,38400n8 reboot=bi
Found and enabled local APIC!
Enabling fast FPU save and restore... done.
Enabling unmasked SIMD FPU exception support... done.
Initializing CPU#0
PID hash table entries: 32 (order: 5, 128 bytes)
Detected 1991.657 MHz processor.
Console: colour VGA+ 80x25
console [tty0] enabled
console [ttyS0] enabled
Dentry cache hash table entries: 1024 (order: 0, 4096 bytes)
Inode-cache hash table entries: 1024 (order: 0, 4096 bytes)
Memory: 5112k/8128k available (1497k kernel code, 2624k reserved, 597k data, 196k init, 0k highmem)
virtual kernel memory layout:
    fixmap : 0xffffb9000 - 0xfffff0000 ( 280 kB)
    vmalloc : 0xc1000000 - 0xffffb7000 (1007 MB)
    lowmem : 0xc0000000 - 0xc07f0000 ( 7 MB)
    .init : 0xc0313000 - 0xc0344000 ( 196 kB)
    .data : 0xc027653c - 0xc030bcfc ( 597 kB)
    .text : 0xc0100000 - 0xc027653c (1497 kB)
Checking if this processor honours the WP bit even in supervisor mode...Ok.
Calibrating delay using timer specific routine.. 4047.64 BogoMIPS (lpj=20238210)
```



Linux Kernel 0.01

```

/*
 * console.c
 *
 * This module implements the console io functions
 * void con_init(void),
 * void con_write(struct tty queue * queue),
 * Hopefully this will be a rather complete VT102 implementation.
 */

/*
 * NOTE!!! We sometimes disable and enable interrupts for a short while
 * (to put a word in video IO), but this will work even for keyboard
 * interrupts. We know interrupts aren't enabled when getting a keyboard
 * interrupt, as we use trap-gates. Hopefully all is well.
 */

#include <linux/sched.h>
#include <linux/tty.h>
#include <asm/io.h>
#include <asm/system.h>

#define SCREEN_START 0xb8000
#define SCREEN_END 0xc0000
#define LINES 25
#define COLUMNS 80
#define NPAR 16

extern void keyboard_interrupt(void);

static unsigned long origin=SCREEN_START;
static unsigned long scr_end=SCREEN_START+LINES*COLUMNS*2;
static unsigned long pos;
static unsigned long x,y;
static unsigned long top=0,bottom=LINES;
static unsigned long lines=LINES,columns=COLUMNS;
static unsigned long state=0;
static unsigned long npar,par[NPAR];
static unsigned long ques=0;
static unsigned char attr=0x07;

```

DID YOU KNOW...

that the first Linux kernel, as programmed by Linus Torvalds, only occupied 65KB of memory? And that since version 0.01, the Linux kernel now boasts over 18 million lines of code. Not bad for a university project that now runs the New York Stock Exchange, and powers the US Department of Defence's fleet of nuclear submarines.



Creating a File Using the Terminal

Using the Terminal, you're able to create folders, files and even execute Linux Mint apps. In truth, if you didn't have the GUI at hand, you could still accomplish the same from the Terminal.

MORE TERMINAL WORK

Creating content using the Terminal isn't quite as strenuous as it may first appear. Yes, the Terminal can look a daunting place for the newcomer, but once mastered it's really quite intuitive.

STEP 1 Open up the Terminal, and make sure you're in the Home folder. If not use the `cd ~` command to return you to the Home folder from wherever you're currently located.

```
david@david-mint ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ cd ~  
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 2 Let's start by creating a new folder within Home, and call it **Test**. The command you'll need is `mkdir Test`. Press **Enter** to create the folder when you've typed in the command, then `cd Test` and press **Enter**. This will **C**hange **D**irectory (hence **CD**) to the newly created Test folder.

```
david@david-mint ~/Test  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test  
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test  
david@david-mint ~/Test $
```

STEP 3 Your command line should change to the Test folder and if you enter `ls` (List folder contents) there'll be nothing within the folder; as you've just created it. The `mkdir` command is fairly self explanatory: Make Directory followed by the name of your choosing.

```
david@david-mint ~/Test  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test  
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test  
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls  
david@david-mint ~/Test $
```

STEP 4 To create an empty text file, called **Test.txt**, enter in the Terminal: `touch Test.txt`. You can then use `ls` to view the new file in the folder. Touch is a standard Linux command that allows the creation of files without the need to open a text editor, save the file, then close the editor.

```
david@david-mint ~/Test  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test  
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test  
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls  
david@david-mint ~/Test $ touch Test.txt  
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls  
Test.txt  
david@david-mint ~/Test $
```



STEP 5

Let's say you now wanted to create a text file, we'll call it **Test2.txt**, complete with some content. To do so, enter: **cat > Test2.txt**. This will create the file **Test2.txt** and put the Terminal into an editing mode.

```
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
david@david-mint ~/Test $ touch Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ cat > Test2.txt
```

STEP 6

You'll notice that the cursor is flashing below the **cat > Test2.txt** command, without the usual prompt. This editing mode will allow you enter the text that the file will contain. Enter some text, then press **Ctrl+D** to exit and write the contents to the file.

```
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
david@david-mint ~/Test $ touch Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ cat > Test2.txt
This is text entered using the Cat command from the Terminal. Cool, isn't it. Pressing Ctrl+D now...
david@david-mint ~/Test $
```

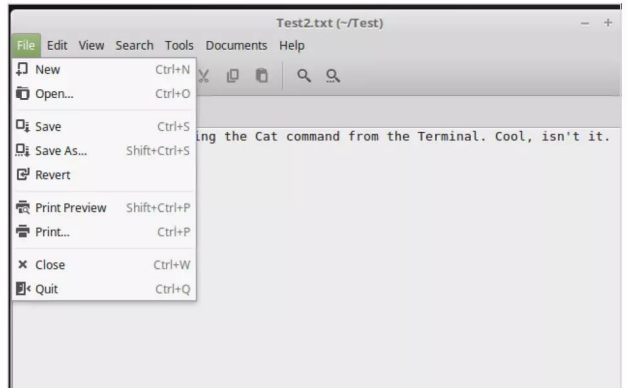
STEP 7

Of course you don't always have to use the Terminal to enter text into a file. Mint comes with a text editor called **Xed**, which is similar to Windows' Notepad. To view the previously created file in Xed, type into the Terminal: **xed Test2.txt**, and press **Enter**.

```
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir Test
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Test
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
david@david-mint ~/Test $ touch Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ ls
Test.txt
david@david-mint ~/Test $ cat > Test2.txt
This is text entered using the Cat command from the Terminal. Cool, isn't it. Pressing Ctrl+D now...
david@david-mint ~/Test $ xed Test2.txt
```

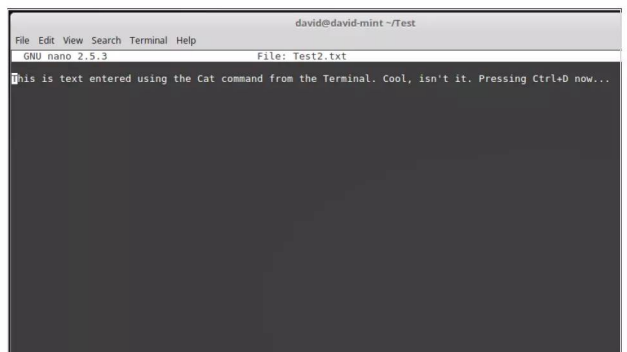
STEP 8

Xed is a GUI app, and you can enter text and save the file, or any file, accordingly by using the app's main window, and the **File > Save**, or **File > Save As** functions from its top menu bar options.



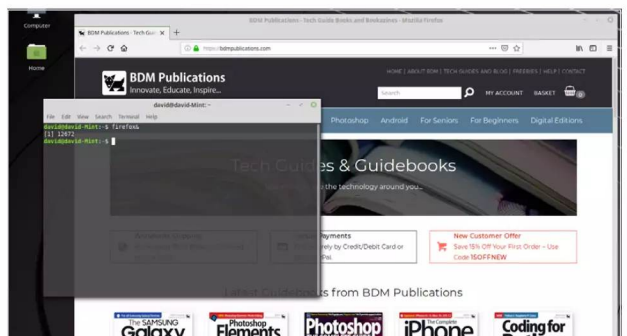
STEP 9

If, however, you prefer to remain working in the Terminal to edit/save/create files, you can use **Nano**. Nano is a simple Terminal-based text editor. To try it with the example, enter: **nano Test2.txt**. There's a menu along the bottom of the screen. To exit and save any content in Nano, press **Ctrl+X** and follow the on-screen instructions.



STEP 10

We've used the Terminal to launch a Mint app, Xed, but any app can be launched from within the Terminal. For example, try: **firefox**, and press **Enter**. Close Firefox to return to the Terminal. Providing you know the name of the app, it can run from the Terminal. Additionally, entering **firefox&** opens Firefox, AND lets you still use the Terminal.





Creating and Removing Directories

As with creating files in the Terminal, you can also create and delete directories, or folders if you prefer. Directories form the structure of your file system, without logical directories the filing system would be in utter chaos.

MANAGING FOLDERS

Learning how to create and delete folders in the Terminal is an important Mint, and indeed Linux overall, skill to master. Here's the basics for you to try out.

STEP 1 With the Terminal open enter `cd ~` to make sure you're in your own Home directory. Now enter `ls` to view the current folders you have housed in the Home directory. You'll notice that folders are labelled in Mint in cyan (light blue). Let's start by creating a new directory. Enter: `mkdir testdir`.

```
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ cd ~
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test Videos Vin
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir testdir
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 2 If you now enter `ls` again, you'll see that the new directory, `testdir`, has been created alongside the other directories in the Home area. Obviously the command `mkdir` is what creates the directory, and no doubt you've already guessed it stands for Make Directory.

```
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ cd ~
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test Videos Vin
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir testdir
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test testdir Videos Vin
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 3 If you were to enter the command again, `mkdir testdir`, you'll receive a message stating: `mkdir: cannot create directory 'testdir': File exists`. It goes without saying then, that you're only able to have one uniquely named directory within the current directory. However, as Linux is case-sensitive, you can have `Testdir`, `TestDir`, `testDir` and so on.

```
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ cd ~
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test Videos Vin
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir testdir
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test testdir Videos Vin
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir testdir
mkdir: cannot create directory 'testdir': File exists
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 4 You can create directories within directories you've already created. For example, enter the `testdir` directory with `cd testdir/` followed by `ls` to list the folder structure. Naturally there's nothing present, as you've just created the directory. Now drop back to Home with `cd ~`, and enter `mkdir testdir/reports`. Go back to the `testdir`, `cd testdir/`, and `ls` again.

```
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ $ cd testdir/
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
david@david-mint ~ $ cd ~
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir testdir/reports
david@david-mint ~ $ cd testdir/
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
reports
david@david-mint ~ $
```



STEP 5 The command to create directories is quite logical, therefore. You'll create the directory, and any sub-directories within. However, what if you want to create a directory and a sub-directory in a single command? Make sure you're at Home (`cd ~`) and enter: `mkdir -p Temp/finances`. Now, `cd Temp/`, and `ls` to list the new directory.

```
david@david-mint ~/Temp
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir -p Temp/finances
david@david-mint ~ $ cd Temp/
david@david-mint ~/Temp $ ls
finances
david@david-mint ~/Temp $
```

STEP 6 The `-p` option is what enables the `mkdir` command to create the sub-directory as well as the parent directory. In Linux, commands always follow the same structure: Command, Option, and Argument. In the previous step example, command (`mkdir`), option (`-p`), and argument (`Temp/finances`).

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir -p Temp/finances
```

STEP 7 If you want to drill down into the various options available for the `mkdir` command, you can enter `mkdir --help` into the Terminal. This will provide a quick help guide detailing the options and how the command structure works.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir --help
Usage: mkdir [OPTION]... DIRECTORY...
Create the DIRECTORY(ies), if they do not already exist.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.
-m, --mode=MODE set file mode (as in chmod), not a-rwx - umask
-p, --parents no error if existing, make parent directories as needed
-v, --verbose print a message for each created directory
-Z set SELinux security context of each created directory to the default type
--context[=CTX] like -Z, or if CTX is specified then set the SELinux or SMACK security context to CTX
--help display this help and exit
--version output version information and exit

GNU coreutils online help: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Full documentation at: <http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/mkdir>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) mkdir invocation'
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 8 Now that we've created some directories, let's see about removing them. Start by entering the `testdir` directory and listing its contents: `cd testdir/`, then `ls`. The previously created `reports` sub-directory is present. One way to remove it is to enter: `rmdir reports`, then `ls` again to confirm it's not there.

```
david@david-mint ~/testdir
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ cd testdir/
david@david-mint ~/testdir $ ls
reports
david@david-mint ~/testdir $ rmdir reports
david@david-mint ~/testdir $ ls
david@david-mint ~/testdir $
```

STEP 9 A quick warning: removing a directory in the Terminal doesn't place it in the Mint Rubbish Bin, via Nemo file manager. The same goes for any files, too. If you remove a directory from the Terminal command then it's gone for good.

```
david@david-Mint:~$ cd testdir/
david@david-Mint:~/testdir$ ls
reports
david@david-Mint:~/testdir$ rmdir reports
david@david-Mint:~/testdir$ ls
david@david-Mint:~/testdir$
```

Rubbish Bin

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Help

← → ↑ ↓ □ Rubbish Bin

Restore Selected Items Empty Rubbish Bin

My Computer

- Home
- Desktop
- Docume...
- Music
- Pictures
- Videos
- Downloa...
- File Syst...
- Rubbish ...

STEP 10 `Rmdir` will only remove empty directories, to remove directories containing sub-directories, or even files, you'll need to use the `rm` command with the `-R` option. For example, on the `Temp/finance` directories, use `rm -R Temp`. A quick `ls` reveals that the parent folder and all of its contents are removed. Careful when using this command.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Temp Templates Test
david@david-mint ~ $ rm -R Temp
david@david-mint ~ $ ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Fonts mapfile Music Pictures Public Templates Test testd
david@david-mint ~ $
```



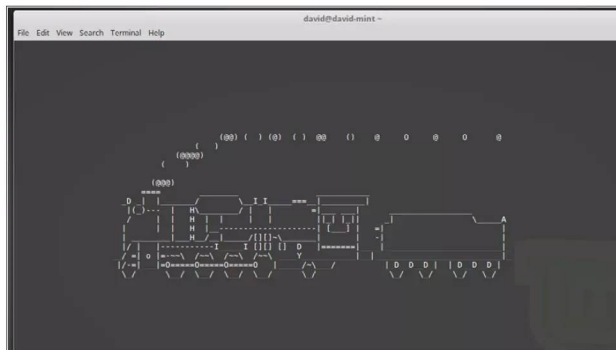

Fun Things to do in the Terminal

Despite the seriousness of an operating system, the Linux community are certainly no strangers to a bit of fun. The developers over the years have created and inserted all manner of fun and odd elements into the Terminal.

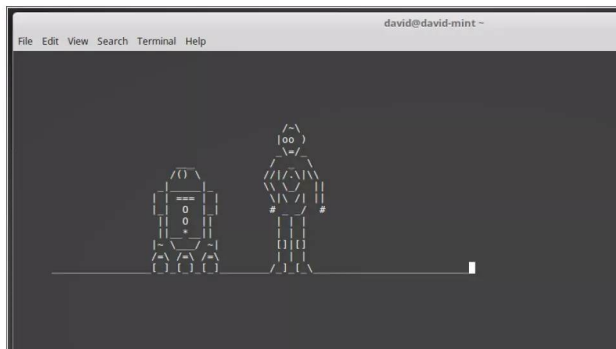
TERMINAL FUN

You'll be working exclusively in the Terminal for these next two sections, so start warming up your fingers. After all, all work and no play... as the saying goes.

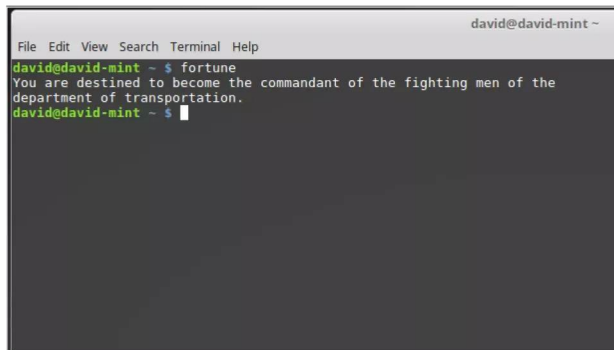
STEP 1 The first command we're going to use is **sl**, it's not installed by default so enter: **sudo apt-get install sl**. The command can be run with **sl** and when executed will display a Steam Locomotive travelling across the screen (hence 'sl'). Entering **LS**, note the upper case, also works.



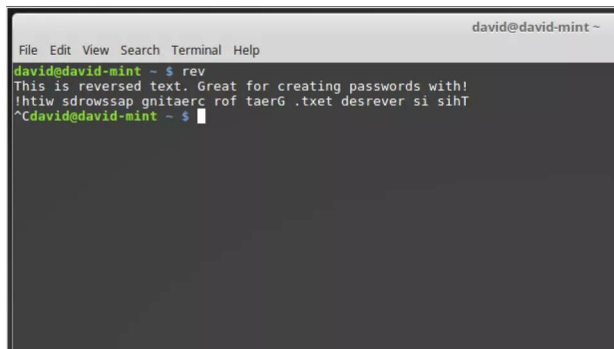
STEP 2 Fans of Star Wars even get a fix when it comes to the Terminal. By linking to a remote server via the **telnet** command, you can watch Episode IV: A New Hope being played out, albeit in ASCII. To view this spectacle, enter: **telnet towel.blinkenlights.nl**.



STEP 3 If you've ever fancied having the computer read a random fortune out to you, then you're in luck. Most distros require you to install the fortune app, however Linux Mint differs somewhat by having it already pre-loaded. All you need to do is enter the command **fortune** into the Terminal, and enjoy.



STEP 4 The **rev** command is certainly interesting, and at first what seems a quite useless addition to the OS. However, it can be used to create some seemingly unbreakable passwords. Enter: **rev**, now type some text, when you press **Enter** next, everything you typed in will be reversed. Press **Ctrl+C** to exit.





STEP 5 If you're stuck trying to work out all the possible factors for any particular number, simply enter **factor** followed by the number. For example, **factor 7** doesn't offer much output, whereas **factor 60** displays more.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ factor 7
7: 7
david@david-mint ~ $ factor 60
60: 2 2 3 5
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 6 There's a fine line between the rather cool and really-quite-weird. Having an ASCII cow repeat text to you could potentially fall in the latter. Enter **cowsay** followed by any text you want, such as: **cowsay Linux Mint is ace!**. In fact, you can even output the **ls** command through the cow, by entering: **ls | cowsay**.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ cowsay Linux Mint is ace!
< Linux Mint is ace! >
  \   ^__^
   (oo)\_____)
      (||)wuu|
      ||----w |
      ||     ||
david@david-mint ~ $ ls | cowsay
 / Desktop Documents Downloads Music
 | Pictures Public Templates Test Videos
 | Vim
  \   ^__^
   (oo)\_____)
      (||)wuu|
      ||----w |
      ||     ||
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 7 To further the cow element, there's even a graphical, i.e. non-Terminal, cow available. Install it with: **sudo apt-get install xcowsay**, then when it's installed enter something similar to cowsay, such as: **xcowsay BDM Publications**.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
[sudo] password for david:
Reading package lists... done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  fortune-mod libcodec2-amd64
Suggested packages:
  fortune
Recommended packages:
  fortune-min fortune-cookies
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  fortune-mod libcodec2-amd64 xcowsay
0 to upgrade, 3 to newly install, 0 to remove and 12 net to upgrade.
Need to get 330.48 kB of archives.
After this operation, 2.189 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Do you want to continue? (Y/n)
Get:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/main amd64 libcodec2-amd64 3.6.23 [528 kB]
Get:2 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe amd64 fortune-mod amd64 1:1.99.1-7build1 [37.3 kB]
Get:3 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe amd64 xcowsay amd64 1.4-1 [70.6 kB]
Fetched 330.48 kB (3.85 MB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package libcodec2-amd64.
Unpacking libcodec2-amd64 (3.6.23) ...
Selecting previously unselected package fortune-mod.
Unpacking fortune-mod (1:1.99.1-7build1) ...
Unpacking fortune-mod (1:1.99.1-7build1) ...
Selecting previously unselected package xcowsay.
Unpacking xcowsay (1.4-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.27-0ubuntu1) ...
Setting up libcodec2-amd64 (3.6.23) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.3-2ubuntu0.1) ...
Setting up fortune-mod (1:1.99.1-7build1) ...
Setting up xcowsay (1.4-1) ...
Processing triggers for libc-bin (2.27-0ubuntu1) ...
david@david-mint ~ $ xcowsay BDM Publications
  \   ^__^
   (oo)\_____)
      (||)wuu|
      ||----w |
      ||     ||
  BDM Publications
  \   ^__^
   (oo)\_____)
      (||)wuu|
      ||----w |
      ||     ||
```

STEP 8 If you really want to expand the whole cow thing, for whatever reason, then pipe the fortune command through it, with: **fortune | cowsay**; and for the graphical cow equivalent: **fortune | xcowsay**. Plus, there's always cowthink. Try: **cowthink ...This book is awesome.**

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ fortune | xcowsay
  \   ^__^
   (oo)\_____)
      (||)wuu|
      ||----w |
      ||     ||
  You shall judge of a man by his foes as well as by his friends.
  -- Joseph Conrad
```

STEP 9 The command **toilet** doesn't inspire much confidence, we'll admit. However, it's not as bad as it first sounds. Start by installing it with: **sudo apt-get install toilet**. Then when installed, type something along the lines of: **toilet David**. Or perhaps list the contents of the current folder through it, with: **ls | toilet**.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ toilet David
      "      #
# "m mmm m m mmm mmm#
# # " # "m m" # # "
# # " " " # #m# # #
#mmm "mn" # # mm#mm "#m#
david@david-mint ~ $
```

STEP 10 Expanding the toilet command, you can actually generate some decent looking graphics through it. For example, try this: **toilet -f mono12 -F metal David**. You can enter **toilet --help**, for a list of the command line arguments to expand further.

```
david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~ $ toilet -f mono12 -F metal David
David
david@david-mint ~ $
```




If the previous list of fun, and quite bizarre, things to do in the Terminal has you wanting more, you're in luck. We've put together another batch of some useful, and some not so useful, commands for you to try out.

Since the Terminal session is already open, and your keyboard digits are nicely warmed up, here are another two pages of Terminal nonsense.

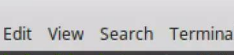
[illegible][illegible]

```

david@david-mint ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help

david@david-mint ~ % sudo apt get install oneko
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following NEW packages will be installed
oneko
0 to upgrade, 1 to newly install, 0 to remove and 0 not to upgrade.
Need to get 35.7 kB of archives.
After this operation, 147 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial/universe amd64 oneko amd64 1.2.sakura-6.11 [35.7 kB]
Unpacking oneko (1.2.sakura-6.11) ...
Preparing to unpack .../onko5 file and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../onko6 1.2.sakura-6.11 amd64 deb ...
Unpacking oneko (1.2.sakura-6.11) ...
Processing triggers for xan-db (2.7.5.1) ...
Processing triggers for bamfdamemon (0.5.3-br0+16.04.20160824-Ubuntu) ...
Rebuilding /usr/share/applications/menu/2.index...
Processing triggers for desktop-file-utils (0.22-ubuntu1) ...
Processing triggers for gnome-menus (3.13.3-ubuntu3.1) ...
Processing triggers for alac-support (3.9ubuntu1) ...
Setting up oneko (1.2.sakura-6.11) ...
david@david-mint ~ % uneko

```



The screenshot shows a terminal window with a menu bar at the top containing 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Search', 'Terminal', and 'Help'. The main area of the terminal has a dark background. The prompt 'david@david-mint ~ \$' is displayed in green, followed by the command ':(){ :|:& }:' in white. Below this, the prompt character '>' is shown in white, followed by a small white cursor block.



STEP 5 Stringing several commands and piping them through other commands is what makes scripting such a powerful element to an OS. Using the while command, for example, together with toilet, can yield some impressive results. Enter: `while true; do echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --metal)"; sleep 1; done.`

```
david@david-mint ~
david@david-mint ~ % while true; do echo "$(date '+%D %T' | toilet -f term -F border --metal)"; sleep 1; done
```

STEP 6 Talking computers were the craze of the 80s, enter: `espeak "Hello, this is Linux Mint"` to have the computer repeat the text inside the quotes to you. Make sure your volume is turned up, and try the following: `ls > folders.txt && espeak -f folders.txt`. This will have Mint read back the contents of the ls command.

```
david@david-mint ~ % ls > folders.txt && espeak -f folders.txt
```

STEP 7 A roaring ASCII fire isn't the most useful command to have at your disposal, but it's fun. Install it with: `sudo apt-get install libaa-bin`, then when installed use: `aafire`. It's not exactly warming but you get the idea. To expand the above, enter: `sudo apt-get install bb caca-utils`, then, `cacafire`.

```
david@david-mint ~ % caca
```

STEP 8 Used as a music demo from the old Amiga and DOS days, the `bb` command reminds us of getting hold of three and a half inch floppies crammed with all manner of demoscene goodies. We've already installed `bb` from the previous step, so just enter `bb`. Follow the on-screen instructions, and turn up your volume.

```
david@david-mint ~ % bb
```

STEP 9 This entry is in two parts. First you need to get hold of the necessary packages: `sudo apt-get install libcurses-perl`. When that's done enter: `cd Downloads/ && wget http://search.cpan.org/CPAN/authors/id/K/KB/KBAUCOM/Term-Animation-2.4.tar.gz && tar -xf Term-Animation-2.4.tar.gz && cd Term-Animation-2.4/`. Then: `perl Makefile.PL && make && make test && sudo make install`.

```
david@david-mint ~ % cd Downloads/ && wget http://search.cpan.org/CPAN/authors/id/K/KB/KBAUCOM/Term-Animation-2.4.tar.gz && tar -xf Term-Animation-2.4.tar.gz && cd Term-Animation-2.4/ && perl Makefile.PL && make && make test && sudo make install
```

STEP 10 With that little lot done, onto the next. Enter: `cd . && wget http://www.robobunny.com/projects/asciiaquarium/asciiaquarium.tar.gz && tar -xf asciiaquarium.tar.gz && cd asciiaquarium_1.1/ && chmod +x asciiaquarium`. Providing all went well, enter: `./asciiaquarium` and enjoy your very own ASCII-based aquarium.

```
david@david-mint ~ % ./asciiaquarium
```




Linux Tips and Tricks

As you've seen, the Linux Terminal is quite an exceptional environment. With a few extra apps installed, and a smidgen of command knowledge, incredible, and often quite strange, things can be accomplished.

TAKING COMMAND

There are countless Linux tips, secrets, hacks and tricks out there. Some are very old, originating from Linux's Unix heritage, while others are recent additions to Linux lore. Here's our favourite ten tips and tricks.

EASTER EGGS

Emacs, the text editor, is a great piece of software, however, did you know it also contains a hidden Easter Egg? With Emacs installed (**sudo apt-get install emacs25**), drop to a Terminal session and enter:

```
emacs -batch -l dunnet
```

Dunnet is a text adventure written by Ron Schnell in 1982, and hidden in Emacs since 1994.

TERMINAL BROWSING

Ever fancied being able to browse the Internet from the Terminal? While not particularly useful, it is quite a fascinating thing to behold. To do so, enter:

```
sudo apt-get install elinks
elinks
```

Enter the website you want to visit.

MOON BUGGY

Based on the classic 1982 arcade game, Moon Patrol, Moon Buggy appeared on the home computers of 1985 amid much praise. It's a cracking Atari game, and it's available in the Linux Terminal by entering:

```
sudo apt-get install moon-buggy
```

Then:

```
moon-buggy
```

Enjoy.

LET IT SNOW

Snowing in the Terminal console isn't something you come across every day. If you're interested, however, enter:

```
wget https://gist.githubusercontent.com/sontek/
1505483/raw/7d024716ea57e69fb52632fee09f42
753361c4a2/snowjob.sh
chmod +x snowjob.sh
./snowjob.sh
```



MEMORY HOGS

If you need to see what apps are consuming the most memory on

Linux, simply enter:

```
ps aux | sort -nrk 4
```

This sorts the output by system memory use.

```
david@david-Mint: ~/Downloads
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-Mint:~/Downloads$ ps aux | sort -nrk 4
david 1617 2.7 0.4 2430828 130768 ? Ssl 12:31 2:17 cinnamon --replace
root 946 0.4 4.5 498829 92688 tty7 Ssl+ 12:31 0:21 /usr/lib/xorg/Xorg -core :0 -seat seat0 -auth
/var/run/lightdm/root/:0 -nolisten tcp vt7 -novtswitch
david 1778 0.8 2.9 733864 50968 ? SL 12:31 0:00 mintupdate
david 1667 0.8 2.5 877384 52968 ? SL 12:31 0:02 nemo-desktop
david 1731 0.8 2.4 609288 49124 ? SL 12:31 0:00 cinnamon-screensaver
david 15550 0.6 1.7 589160 36296 ? Ssl 13:52 0:01 /usr/lib/gnome-terminal/gnome-terminal-server
david 1670 0.6 1.6 647012 33780 ? SL 12:31 0:00 nm-applet
david 975 0.6 1.5 562908 31248 ? Ssl 12:31 0:01 cinnamon-session session cinnamon
david 1841 0.6 1.5 249436 31888 ? SL 12:32 0:00 /usr/bin/python3 /usr/share/system-config-pr
nter/applet.py
david 1629 0.6 1.5 433888 31888 ? SL 12:31 0:00 blueberry-obex-agent
david 1479 0.6 1.5 766192 31256 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/lib/gnome-online-accounts/goa-daemon
root 330 0.6 1.4 109804 29444 ? S-s 12:31 0:00 /lib/systemd/systemd-journald
david 1671 0.6 1.4 408832 29356 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/bin/python3 /usr/bin/cinnamon-killer-dae
mon
david 1614 0.6 1.4 183356 28892 ? S 12:31 0:00 /usr/bin/python3 /usr/bin/cinnamon-launcher
david 1153 0.6 1.3 480788 27680 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/cinnamon-settings-d
eamon/csd-background
david 1120 0.6 1.2 504844 26388 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/cinnamon-settings-d
eamon/csd-power
david 1130 0.6 1.1 447156 22836 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/cinnamon-settings-d
eamon/csd-keyboard
david 1129 0.6 1.1 445368 23132 ? SL 12:31 0:00 /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/cinnamon-settings-d
eamon/csd-print-notifications
```

SHREDDER

When you delete a file, there's a chance of someone with the right software being able

to retrieve it. However, to securely and permanently delete a file, use Shred:

```
shred -zvu NAMEOFFILE.txt
```

Replace **NAMEOFFILE** with the name of the file to delete.

```
david@david-Mint: ~/Downloads
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-Mint:~/Downloads$ ls
snowjob.sh TopSecretFile.txt vim74 vim-7.4.tar.bz2
david@david-Mint:~/Downloads$ shred -zvu TopSecretFile.txt
shred: TopSecretFile.txt: removing
shred: TopSecretFile.txt: renamed to 000000000000000000
shred: TopSecretFile.txt: removed
david@david-Mint:~/Downloads$
```

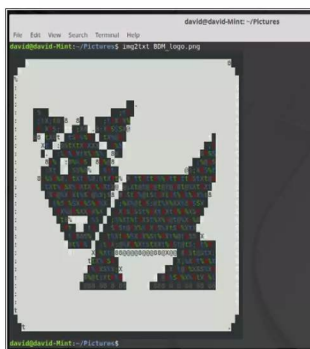
ASCII ART

ASCII art can be quite striking when applied to some images. However, it's often difficult to

get just right. You can create some great ASCII art from the images you have by using img2txt:

```
img2txt NAMEOFIMAGEFILE.png
```

Replace **NAMEOFIMAGEFILE** with the actual name of the image file on your system. If **img2txt** isn't installed, use: `sudo apt-get install caca-utils`.



BBS

Back in the days of dial-up connections, the online world was made up of Bulletin Board Systems. These remote servers provided hang-outs for users to chat, swap code, play games and more. Using telnet in Linux, we can still connect to some active BBSes:

```
telnet battlestarbbs.dyndns.org
```

There are countless operational BBSes available, check out <https://www.telnetbbsguide.com/bbs/list/detail/>, for more.



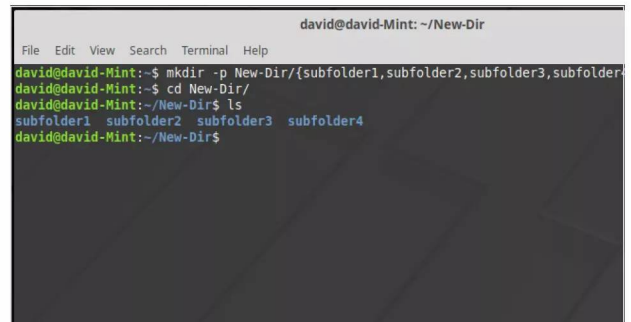
DIRECTORY TREES

If you want to create an entire directory (or folder) tree with a

single command, you can use:

```
mkdir -p New-Dir/{subfolder1,subfolder2,subfolder3,subfolder4}
```

This creates a New-Dir with four sub folders within.

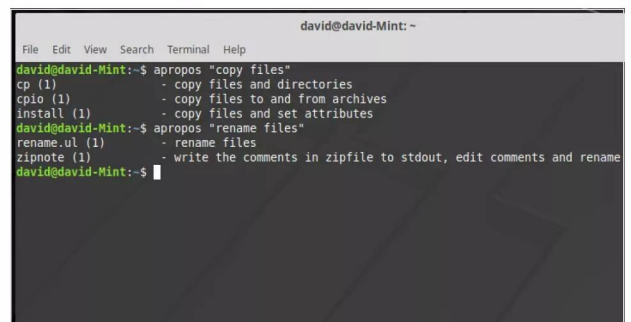


FORGOTTEN COMMANDS

It's not easy trying to remember all the

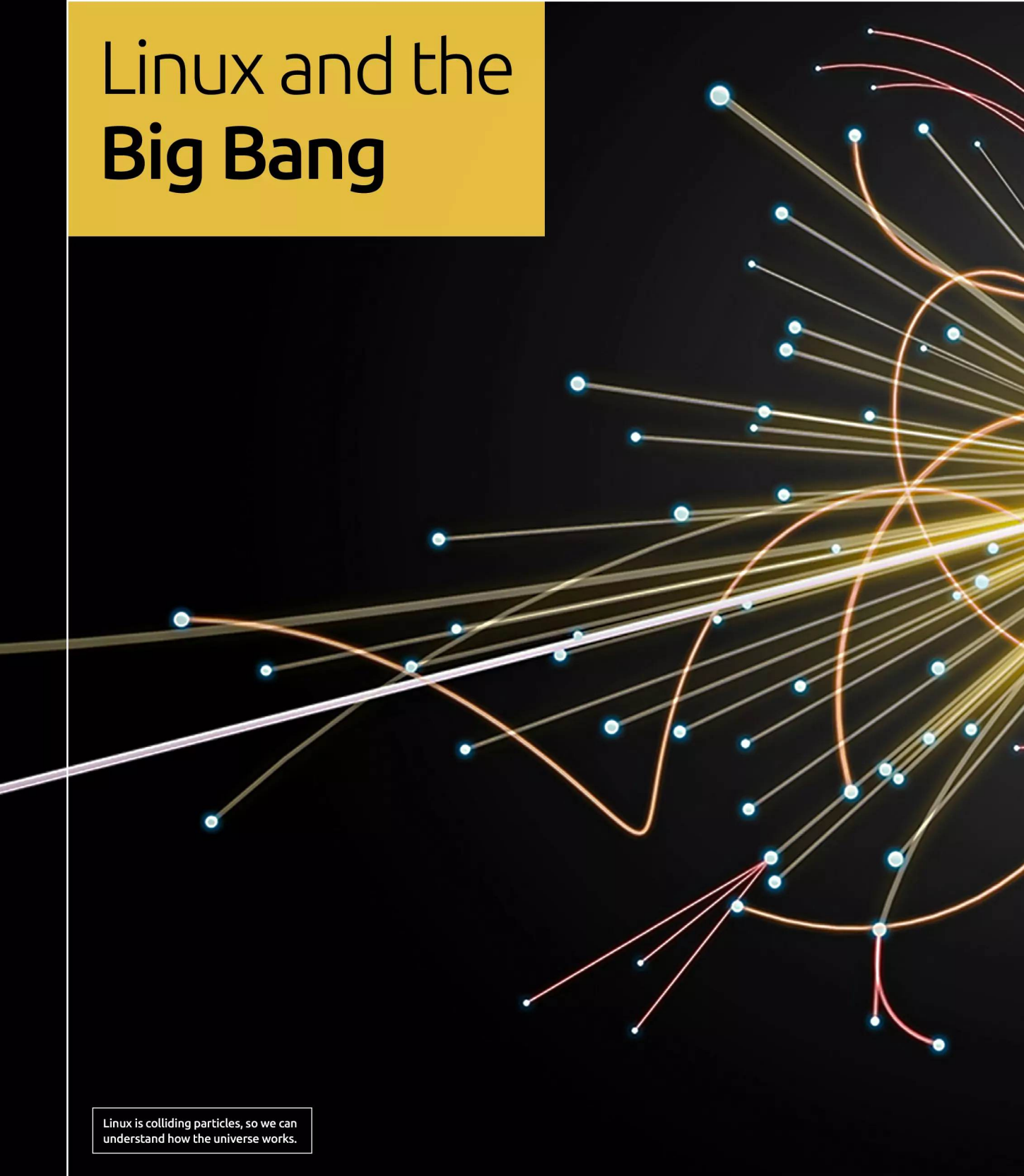
available Linux commands. Thankfully, we can use apropos to help us. Simply use it, along with a description of the command:

```
apropos "copy files"
apropos "rename files"
```

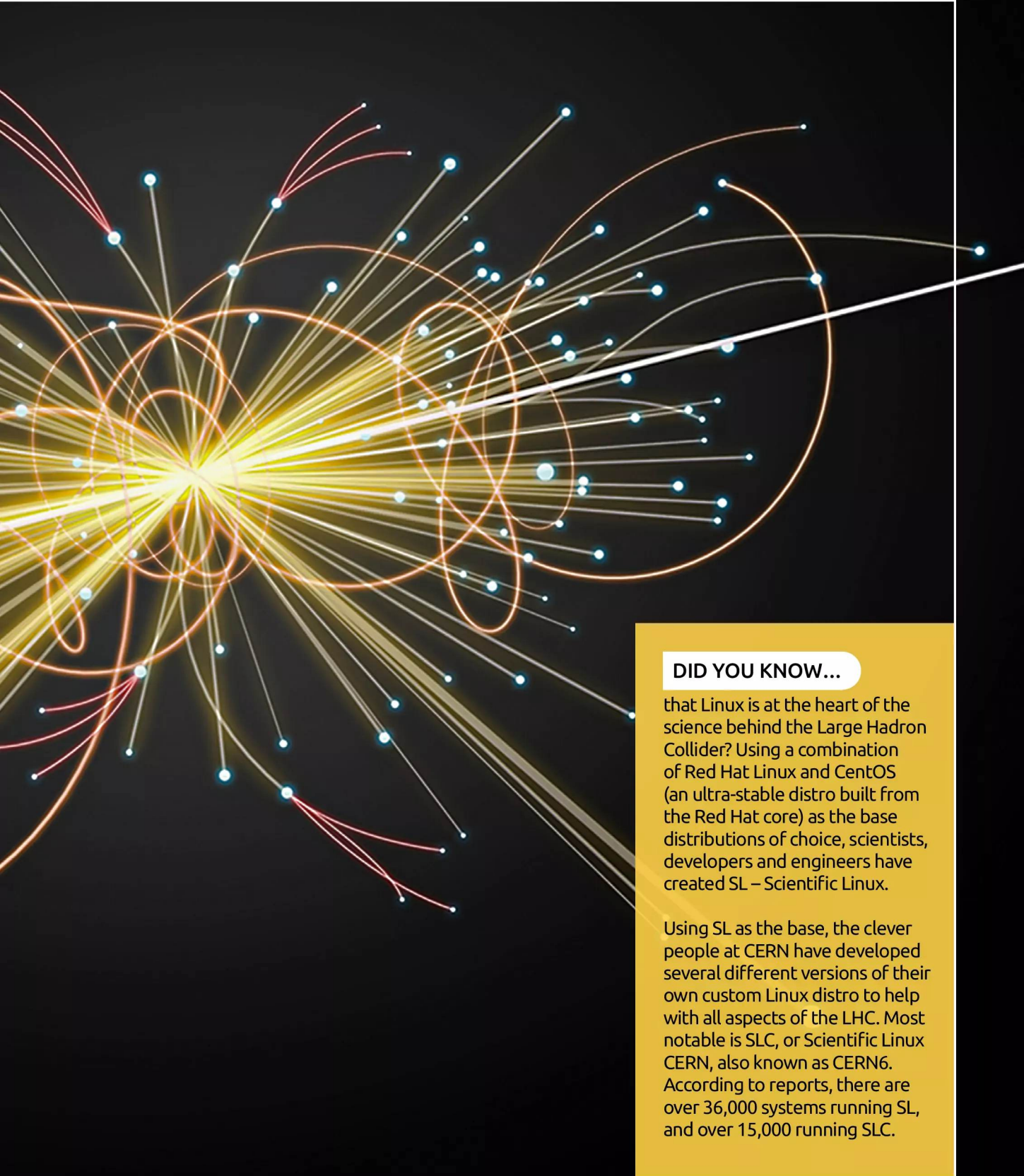




Linux and the Big Bang



Linux is colliding particles, so we can understand how the universe works.



DID YOU KNOW...

that Linux is at the heart of the science behind the Large Hadron Collider? Using a combination of Red Hat Linux and CentOS (an ultra-stable distro built from the Red Hat core) as the base distributions of choice, scientists, developers and engineers have created SL – Scientific Linux.

Using SL as the base, the clever people at CERN have developed several different versions of their own custom Linux distro to help with all aspects of the LHC. Most notable is SLC, or Scientific Linux CERN, also known as CERN6. According to reports, there are over 36,000 systems running SL, and over 15,000 running SLC.



Creating Bash Scripts

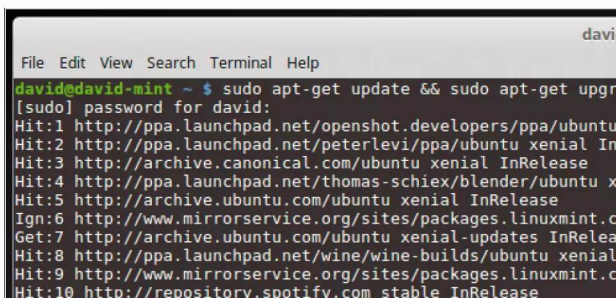
– Part 1

Eventually, as you advance with Linux Mint, you'll want to start creating your own automated tasks and programs. These are essentially scripts, Bash Shell scripts to be exact, and they work in the same way as a DOS Batch file does, or any other programming language.

GET SCRIPTING

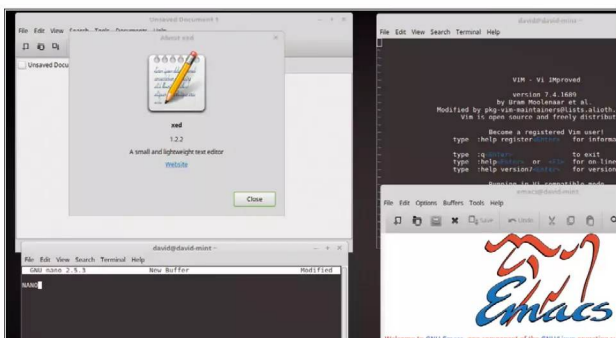
A Bash script is simply a series of commands that Mint will run through to complete a certain task. They can be simple or remarkably complex, it all depends on the situation.

STEP 1 You'll be working within the Terminal and with a text editor throughout the coming pages. There are alternatives to the text editor, which we'll look at in a moment but for the sake of ease, we'll be doing our examples in Xed. Before you begin, however, run through the customary update check: `sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgrade`.

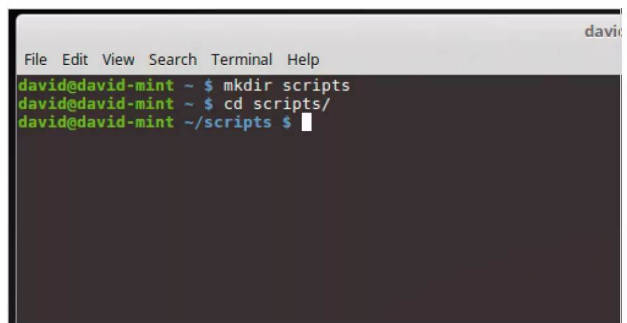


```
david@david-mint ~ $ sudo apt-get update && sudo apt-get upgr
[sudo] password for david:
Hit:1 http://ppa.launchpad.net/openshot.developers/ppa/ubuntu
Hit:2 http://ppa.launchpad.net/peterlevi/ppa/ubuntu xenial In
Hit:3 http://archive.canonical.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Hit:4 http://ppa.launchpad.net/thomas-schiex/blender/ubuntu x
Hit:5 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial InRelease
Ign:6 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.c
Get:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu xenial-updates InRelea
Hit:8 http://ppa.launchpad.net/wine/wine-builds/ubuntu xenial
Hit:9 http://www.mirrorservice.org/sites/packages.linuxmint.c
Hit:10 http://repository.spotify.com stable InRelease
```

STEP 2 There are several text editors we can use to create a Bash script: Xed, Vi, Nano, Vim, GNU Emacs and so on. In the end it all comes down to personal preference. Our use of Xed is purely due to making it easier to read the script in the screenshots you see below.

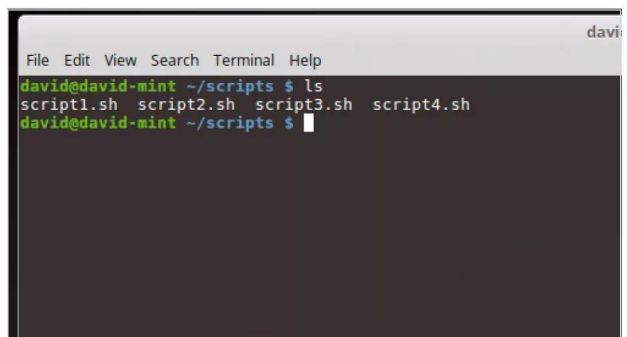


STEP 3 To begin with, and before you start to write any scripts, you need to create a folder where you can put all our scripts into. Start with `mkdir scripts`, and enter the folder `cd scripts/`. This will be our working folder and from here you can create sub-folders if you want of each script you create.



```
david@david-mint ~ $ mkdir scripts
david@david-mint ~ $ cd scripts/
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 4 Windows users will be aware that in order for a batch file to work, as in be executed and follow the programming within it, it needs to have a .BAT file extension. Linux is an extension-less operating system but the convention is to give scripts a .sh extension.



```
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ls
script1.sh script2.sh script3.sh script4.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```



STEP 5

Let's start with a simple script to output something to the Terminal. Enter `xed helloworld.sh`. This will launch Xed and create a file called `helloworld.sh`. In Xed, enter the following: `#!/bin/bash`, then on a new line: `echo Hello World!`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ xed helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $

File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*helloworld.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo Hello World!
```

STEP 6

The `#!/bin/bash` line tells the system what Shell you're going to be using, in this case Bash. The hash (#) denotes a comment line, one that is ignored by the system, the exclamation mark (!) means that the comment is bypassed and will force the script to execute the line as a command. This is also known as a Hash-Bang.

```
*helloworld.sh
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*helloworld.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo Hello World!
```

STEP 7

You can save this file, clicking File > Save, and exit back to the Terminal. Entering `ls`, will reveal the script in the folder. To make any script executable, and able to run, you need to modify its permissions. Do this with `chmod +x helloworld.sh`. You need to do this with every script you create.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ xed helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ls
helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ chmod +x helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 8

When you enter `ls` again, you can see that the `helloworld.sh` script has now turned from being white to green, meaning that it's now an executable file. To run the script, in other words make it do the things you've typed into it, enter: `./helloworld.sh`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ xed helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ls
helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ chmod +x helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ls
helloworld.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./helloworld.sh
Hello World!
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 9

Although it's not terribly exciting, the words 'Hello World!' should now be displayed in the Terminal. The echo command is responsible for outputting the words after it in the Terminal, as we move on you can make the echo command output to other sources.

```
*helloworld.sh
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*helloworld.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo Hello World! This is my first script in Linux Mint
```

STEP 10

Think of echo as the old BASIC Print command. It displays either text, numbers or any variables that are stored in the system, such as the current system date. Try this example: `echo Hello World! Today is $(date +%A)`. The `$(date +%A)` is calling the system variable that stores the current day of the week.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./helloworld.sh
Hello World! Today is Monday
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```




Creating Bash Scripts – Part 2

Previously we looked at creating your first Bash script, Hello World, and adding a system variable. Now you can expand these and see what you can do when you start to play around with creating your own unique variables.

VARIABLES

Just as in every other programming language a Bash script can store and call certain variables from the system, either generic or user created.

STEP 1 Let's start by creating a new script called `hello.sh`; `xed hello.sh`. In it enter: `#!/bin/bash`, then, `echo Hello $1`. Save the file and exit Xed. Back in the Terminal make the script executable with: `chmod +x hello.sh`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ xed hello.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ chmod +x hello.sh
david@david-mint ~/scripts $

File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
hello.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo Hello $1
```

STEP 2 As the script is now executable, run it with `./hello.sh`. Now, as you probably expected a simple 'Hello' is displayed in the Terminal. However, if you then issue the command with a variable, it begins to get interesting. For example, try `./hello.sh David`.

```
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh
Hello
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh David
Hello David
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 3 The output now will be Hello David. This is because Bash automatically assigns variables for the user, which are then held and passed to the script. So the variable '`$1`' now holds 'David'. You can change the variable by entering something different: `./hello.sh Mint`.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh
Hello
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh David
Hello David
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh Mint
Hello Mint
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 4 You can even rename variables. Modify the `hello.sh` script with the following: `firstname=$1`, `surname=$2`, `echo Hello $firstname $surname`. Putting each statement on a new line. Save the script and exit back into the Terminal.

```
*hello.sh x
#!/bin/bash
firstname=$1
surname=$2
echo Hello $firstname $surname
```

**STEP 5**

When you run the script now you can use two custom variables: `./hello.sh David Hayward`. Naturally change the two variables with your own name; unless you're also called David Hayward. At the moment we're just printing the contents, so let's expand the two-variable use a little.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh David Hayward
Hello David Hayward
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./hello.sh Linux Mint
Hello Linux Mint
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 6

Create a new script called `addition.sh`, using the same format as the `hello.sh` script, but changing the variable names. Here we've added `firstnumber` and `secondnumber`, and used the `echo` command to output some simple arithmetic by placing an integer expression, `echo The sum is $((firstnumber+secondnumber))`. Save the script, and make it executable (`chmod +x addition.sh`).

```
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
addition.sh
#!/bin/bash
firstnumber=$1
secondnumber=$2
echo The sum is $((firstnumber+secondnumber))
```

STEP 7

When you now run the `addition.sh` script we can enter two numbers: `./addition.sh 1 2`. The result will hopefully be 3, with the Terminal displaying 'The sum is 3'. Try it with a few different numbers and see what happens. See also if you can alter the script and rename it to do multiplication, and subtraction.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./addition.sh 1 2
The sum is 3
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./addition.sh 34 45
The sum is 79
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./addition.sh 65756 1456
The sum is 67212
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./multiplication.sh 2 8
The sum is 16
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 8

Let's expand things further. Create a new script called `greetings.sh`. Enter the scripting as below in the screenshot, save it and make it executable with the `chmod` command. You can see that there are a few new additions to the script now.

```
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
greetings.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo -n "Hello, what is your name? "
read firstname
echo -n "Thank you, and what is your surname? "
read surname
clear
echo Hello $firstname $surname, how are you today?
```

STEP 9

We've added a `-n` to the `echo` command here which will leave the cursor on the same line as the question, instead of a new line. The `read` command stores the users' input as the variables `firstname` and `surname`, to then read back later in the last `echo` line. And the `clear` command clears the screen.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./greetings.sh
Hello David Hayward, how are you today?
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 10

As a final addition, let's include the date variable we used in the last section. Amend the last line of the script to read: `echo Hello $firstname $surname, how are you on this fine $(date +%A)?`. The output should display the current day of the week, calling it from a system variable.

```
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
greetings.sh
#!/bin/bash
echo -n "Hello, what is your name? "
read firstname
echo -n "Thank you, and what is your surname? "
read surname
clear
echo Hello $firstname $surname, how are you on this fine $(date +%A)?
```




Creating Bash Scripts – Part 3

In the previous pages we looked at some very basic Bash scripting, which involved outputting text to the screen, getting a user's input, storing it and outputting that to the screen; as well as including a system variable using the Date command. Now let's combine what you've achieved so far and introduce Loops.

IF, THEN, ELSE

With most programming structures there will come a time where you need to loop through the commands you've entered to create better functionality, and ultimately a better program.

STEP 1

Let's look at the If, Then and Else statements now, which when executed correctly, compare a set of instructions and simply work out that IF something is present, THEN do something, ELSE do something different. Create a new script called `greeting2.sh` and enter the text in the screenshot below into it.

```
*greetings.s
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*!greetings.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo -n "Hello, what is your name? "
read firstname
echo -n "Thank you, and what is your surname? "
read surname
clear
if [ "$firstname" == "David" ]
then echo "Awesome name, " $firstname
```

STEP 2

Greeting2.sh is a copy of greeting.sh but with a slight difference. Here we've added a loop starting at the if statement. This means, IF the variable entered is equal to David the next line, THEN, is the reaction to what happens, in this case it will output to the screen 'Awesome name,' followed by the variable (which is David).

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Awesome name, David
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 3

The next line, ELSE, is what happens if the variable doesn't equal 'David'. In this case it simply outputs to the screen the now familiar 'Hello...'. The last line, the Fi statement, is the command that will end the loop. If you have an If command without a Fi command, then you get an error.

```
david@david-
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Hello Pink Floyd, how are you on this fine Wednesday?
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 4

You can obviously play around with the script a little, changing the name variable that triggers a response; or maybe even issuing a response where the first name and surname variables match a specific variable.

```
greetings2.s
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
greetings2.sh x
#!/bin/bash
echo -n "Hello, what is your name? "
read firstname
echo -n "Thank you, and what is your surname? "
read surname
clear
if [ "$firstname" == "David" ] && [ "$surname" == "Hayward" ]
then echo "Awesome name, " $firstname $surname
else echo Hello $firstname $surname, how are you on this fine
```



MORE LOOPING

You can loop over data using the FOR, WHILE and UNTIL statements. These can be handy if you're batch naming, copying or running a script where a counter is needed.

STEP 1 Create a new script called `count.sh`. Enter the text in the screenshot below, save it and make it executable. This creates the variable 'count' which at the beginning of the script equals zero. Then start the WHILE loop, which WHILE count is less than (the LT part) 100 will print the current value of count in the echo command.

```
count.sh (-
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
count=0
while [ $count -lt 100 ];do
echo $count
let count=count+1
done
```

STEP 2 Executing the `count.sh` script will result in the numbers 0 to 99 listing down the Terminal screen; when it reaches 100 the script will end. Modifying the script with the FOR statement, makes it work in much the same way. To use it in our script, enter the text from the screenshot into the `count.sh` script.

```
*count.sh
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
for count in {0..100}; do
echo $count
let count=count+1
done
```

STEP 3 The addition we have here is: `for count in {0..100}; do`. Which means: FOR the variable 'count' IN the numbers from zero to one hundred, then start the loop. The rest of the script is the same. Run this script, and the same output should appear in the Terminal.

```
*count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
for count in {0..100}; do
echo $count
let count=count+1
done
```

STEP 4 The UNTIL loop works much the same way as the WHILE loop only, more often than not, in reverse. So our counting to a hundred, using UNTIL, would be: `until [$count -gt 100]; do`. The difference being, UNTIL count is greater than (the gt part) one hundred, keep on looping.

```
*count.sh (-
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
until [ $count -gt 100 ]; do
echo $count
let count=count+1
done
```

STEP 5 You're not limited to numbers zero to one hundred. You can, within the loop, have whatever set of commands you like and execute them as many times as you want the loop to run for. Renaming a million files, creating fifty folders etc. For example, this script will create ten folders named folder1 through to folder10 using the FOR loop.

```
*count.sh
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
for count in {0..10};do
mkdir Folder$count
let count=count+1
done
```

STEP 6 Using the FOR statement once more, we can execute the counting sequence by manipulating the `{0..100}` part. This section of the code actually means {START..END.. INCREMENT}, if there's no increment then it's just a single digit up to the END. For example, we could get the loops to count up to 1000 in two's with: `for count in {0..1000..2}; do`.

```
*count.sh
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
*count.sh x
#!/bin/bash
for count in {0..1000..2};do
echo $count
let count=count+1
done
```




You've encountered user interaction with your scripts, asking what the user's name is and so on. You've also looked at creating loops within the script to either count or simply do something several times. Let's combine and expand some more.

Let's bring in another command, **CHOICE**, along with some nested **IF** and **ELSE** statements. Start by creating a new script called `mychoice.sh`.

The `mychoice.sh` script is beginning to look a lot more complex. What we have here is a list of four choices, with three possible options. The options: Mint, Is, and Awesome will be displayed if the user presses the correct option key. If not, then the menu will reappear, the fourth choice.

```
david@david-mint ~$ cd ..  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
  
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./mychoice.sh  
1. Mint  
2. Is  
3. Awesome  
Please choose an option (1, 2 or 3) 1  
You have chosen: Mint  
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./mychoice.sh  
1. Mint  
2. Is  
3. Awesome  
Please choose an option (1, 2 or 3) 2  
You have chosen: Is  
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./mychoice.sh  
1. Mint  
2. Is  
3. Awesome  
Please choose an option (1, 2 or 3) 3  
You have chosen: Awesome  
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./mychoice.sh  
1. Mint  
2. Is  
3. Awesome
```

STEP 3 You can, of course, increase the number of choices but you need to make sure that you match the number of choices to the number of IF statements. The script can quickly become a very busy screen to look at. This lengthy script is another way of displaying a menu, this time with a fancy colour scheme too.

```

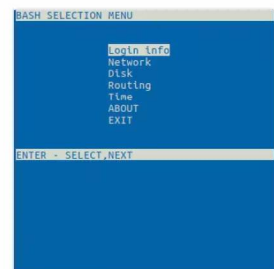
*/bin/bash

E='echo -e';ECHO='echo -en';trap "R;exit" 2

ESC=$(E '\n')
TPUT() { S="{$1}";S:${2}H};
CLEAR() { S="{$C}";
CIVIS() { S="{$1}";};
DRAW() { S="{$q}e";};
WRITE() { S="{$B}";};
MARK() { S="{$7m}";};
UNMARK() { S="{$27m}";};
R() { CLEAR; jstty sane;S="{$C}e[37;44m{$1}";};
HEAD() { DRAW
for_each_in S(seq 1 13);do
S="X"
done
WRITE;MARK;TPUT 1 5
S="DASH SELECTION MENU";
FOOT() { MARK;TPUT 13 5
print "ENTER -> SET NEXT"
ARROW() { read -s -n3 key 2>/dev/null &2
if [[ $key == $ESC ]];then echo upfl;
if [[ $key == $ESC ]];then echo dn;ft;};
M0() { TPUT 4 20; S="Login Info";};
M1() { TPUT 5 20; S="Network";};
M2() { TPUT 6 20; S="Disk";};
M3() { TPUT 7 20; S="RouteInfo";};
M4() { TPUT 8 20; S="Time";};
M5() { TPUT 9 20; S="About";};
M6() { TPUT 10 20; S="EXIT";};
L=0
MENU() { for_each_in S(seq 0 $L);do M5(each);done;};
POS() { if [[ $cur == up ]] ;then ((L--));ft;
if [[ $cur == dn ]] ;then ((L++));ft;
if [[ $L -lt 0 ]] ;then ((L=0));ft;
if [[ $L -gt $L ]] ;then ((L=$L));ft;
REFRESH() { after=$((L+1)); before=$((L-1));
if [[ $before -lt 0 ]] ;then before=$n;ft;
if [[ $after -gt $L ]] ;then after=$d;ft;
if [[ $L -lt $L ]] ;then UNMARK;before;else UNMARK;$after;ft;
if [[ $after -eq $n ]] || [[ $before -eq $L ]] ;then
UNMARK; $before; $after;ft;};$L;UNMARK;$before;$after;ft;};
INIT() { R;HEAD;FOOT;MENU="";
SC() { REFRESH;MARK;$S;$cur="ARROW";};
ECHO; MARK;S="ENTER -> main menu";read;INIT;};
while [[ "$S" != "" ]] ;do case $S in
0) S=M0;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
1) S=M1;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
2) S=M2;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
3) S=M3;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
4) S=M4;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
5) S=M5;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;S="N5($n)";\n";ft;ft;};
6) S=M6;$C;ft; [[ $cur == "" ]] ;then R;exit 0;ft;};
near=DIC

```

STEP 4 You can use the arrow keys and Enter in the menu setup in the script. Each choice is an external command that feeds back various information. Play around with the commands and choices, and see what you can come up with. It's a bit beyond what we've looked at but it gives a good idea of what can be achieved.





CREATING A BACKUP TASK SCRIPT

One of the most well used examples of Bash scripting is the creation of a backup routine, one that automates the task as well as adding some customisations along the way.

STEP 1 A very basic backup script would look something along the lines of: `#!/bin/bash`, then, `tar cvfz ~/backups/my-backup.tgz ~/Documents/`. This will create a compressed file backup of the `~/Documents` folder, with everything in it, and put it in a folder called `/backups` with the name `my-backup.tgz`.

```
backup1.sh (~/.scripts)
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash
tar cvfz ~/backups/my-backup.tgz ~/Documents/
```

STEP 2 While perfectly fine, we can make the simple script a lot more interactive. Let's begin with defining some variables. Enter the text in the screenshot into a new backup.sh script. Notice that we've misspelt 'source' as 'sauce', this is because there's already a built-in command called 'source' hence the different spelling on our part.

```
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash

clear
# Time stamp
day=$(date +%A)
month=$(date +%B)
year=$(date +%Y)

# Folders
dest=~/.backups
sauce=~/.Documents
```

STEP 3 The previous script entries allowed you to create a Time Stamp, so you know when the backup was taken. You also created a 'dest' variable, which is the folder where the backup file will be created (`~/backups`). You can now add a section of code to first check if the `~/backups` folder exists, if not, then it creates one.

```
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash

clear
# Time stamp
day=$(date +%A)
month=$(date +%B)
year=$(date +%Y)

# Folders
dest=~/.backups
sauce=~/.Documents

if [ -d $dest ]; then
echo "Backup folder exists"
else
echo "Backup folder does not exist! I'm now creating it..."; (mkdir -p $dest)
fi
```

STEP 4 Once the `~/backups` folder is created, we can now create a new subfolder within it based on the Time Stamp variables you set up at the beginning. Add `mkdir -p $dest/"$day $month $year"`. It's in here that you put the backup file relevant to that day/month/year.

```
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash

clear
# Time stamp
day=$(date +%A)
month=$(date +%B)
year=$(date +%Y)

# Folders
dest=~/.backups
sauce=~/.Documents

if [ -d $dest ]; then
echo "Backup folder exists"
else
echo "Backup folder does not exist! I'm now creating it..."; (mkdir -p $dest)
fi
read -p "Press any key to continue..." -n1 -s
mkdir -p $dest/"$day $month $year"
```

STEP 5 With everything in place, you can now enter the actual backup routine, based on the Tar command from Step 5. Combined with the variables, you have: `tar cvfz $dest/"$day $month $year"/DocumentsBackup.tgz $sauce`. In the screenshot, we added a handy "Now backing up..." echo command.

```
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash

clear
# Time stamp
day=$(date +%A)
month=$(date +%B)
year=$(date +%Y)

# Folders
dest=~/.backups
sauce=~/.Documents

if [ -d $dest ]; then
echo "Backup folder exists"
else
echo "Backup folder does not exist! I'm now creating it..."; (mkdir -p $dest)
fi
read -p "Press any key to continue..." -n1 -s
mkdir -p $dest/"$day $month $year"

clear
echo "Now backing up. Please wait..."
tar cvfz $dest/"$day $month $year"/DocumentsBackup.tgz $sauce
```

STEP 6 Finally, you can add a friendly message: `echo "Backup complete. All done..."`. The completed script isn't too over-complex and it can be easily customised to include any folder within your Home area, as well as the entire Home area itself.

```
backup1.sh
#!/bin/bash

clear
# Time stamp
day=$(date +%A)
month=$(date +%B)
year=$(date +%Y)

# Folders
dest=~/.backups
sauce=~/.Documents

if [ -d $dest ]; then
echo "Backup folder exists"
else
echo "Backup folder does not exist! I'm now creating it..."; (mkdir -p $dest)
fi
read -p "Press any key to continue..." -n1 -s
mkdir -p $dest/"$day $month $year"

clear
echo "Now backing up. Please wait..."
tar cvfz $dest/"$day $month $year"/DocumentsBackup.tgz $sauce

clear
echo
```




Creating Bash Scripts

– Part 5

The backup script we looked at previously can be further amended to incorporate choices, user-interaction with regards to where the backup file will be copied to and so on. Automating tasks is one of the main benefits of Bash scripting, a simple script can help you out in many ways.

EASY AUTOMATION AND HANDY SCRIPTS

Entering line after line of commands to retrieve system information, find a file or rename a batch of files? A script is a better answer.

STEP 1 Let's start by creating a script to help display the Mint system information; always a handy thing to have. Create a new script called `sysinfo.sh` and enter the following into Xed, or the text editor of your choice.

```
#!/bin/bash

# -Hostname information:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** HOSTNAME INFORMATION *****\e[0m"
hostnamectl
echo ""

# -File system disk space usage:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** FILE SYSTEM DISK SPACE USE *****\e[0m"
df -h
echo ""

# -Free and used memory:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** FREE AND USED MEMORY *****\e[0m"
free
echo ""

# -System uptime and performance load:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** SYSTEM UPTIME AND LOAD *****\e[0m"
uptime
echo ""

# -Users currently logged in:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** CURRENT USERS *****\e[0m"
who
echo ""

# -Top five processes being used by the system:
echo -e "\e[31;43m***** TOP 5 MEMORY CONSUMING PROCESSES *****\e[0m"
ps -eo %mem,%cpu,comm --sort=-%mem | head -n 6
echo ""
echo -e "\e[1;32mDone.\e[0m"
```

STEP 2 We've included a couple of extra commands in this script. The first is the `-e` extension for `echo`, this means it'll enable `echo` interpretation of additional instances of a new line, as well as other special characters. The proceeding `'31;43m'` element enables colour for foreground and background.

```
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./sysinfo.sh
***** HOSTNAME INFORMATION *****
Static hostname: david-mint
Icon name: computer-vm
Chassis: vm
Machine ID: 5ab3c275b7304ed3b8aeef9ffcc37eb4
Boot ID: 6lcelbaadf934f649cf5ac809abe7e18
Virtualization: oracle
Operating System: Linux Mint 18.1
Kernel: Linux 4.4.0-53-generic
Architecture: x86_64

***** FILE SYSTEM DISK SPACE USE *****
```

STEP 3 Each of the sections runs a different Terminal command, outputting the results under the appropriate heading. You can include a lot more, such as the current aliases being used in the system, the current time and date and so on. Plus, you could also pipe all that information into a handy HTML file, ready to be viewed in a browser.

```
david@david-mint ~/scripts
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
david@david-mint ~/scripts $ ./sysinfo.sh > sysinfo.html
david@david-mint ~/scripts $
```

STEP 4 Although there are simple Terminal commands to help you look for a particular file or folder, it's often more fun to create a script to help you. Plus, you can use that script for other non-technical users. Create a new script called `look4.sh`, entering the content from the screenshot below.

```
look4.sh (-)
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
look4.sh x
#!/bin/bash

target=~/
read name

output=$( find "$target" -iname "$name" 2> /dev/null )

if [[ -n "$output" ]]; then
    echo "$output"
else
    echo "No match found"
fi
```

STEP 8



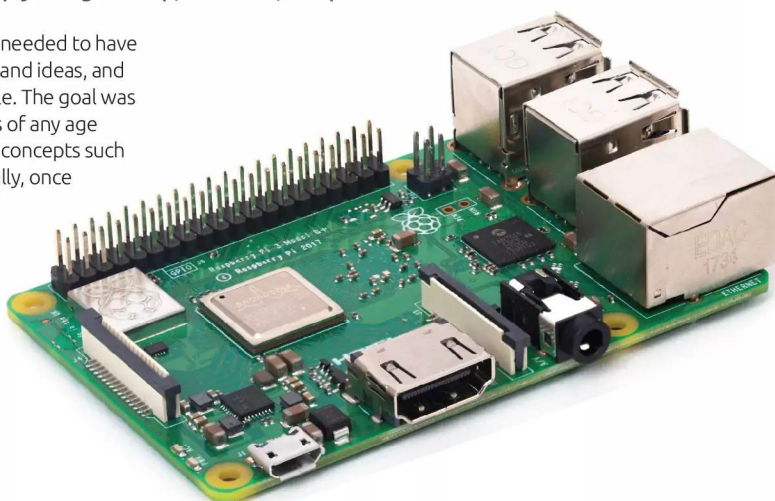
Pi x Linux = The Perfect Combination

The Raspberry Pi is a remarkable piece of hardware, and to help drive its potential it needs a remarkable operating system. Thankfully, Linux is the default and recommended OS of choice for the Pi, and together they make a winning team.

When the Raspberry Pi was in its developmental stages its designers needed to ensure that they were creating a piece of hardware that could offer much more than simply being a cheap, but small, computer.

The Pi needed to be flexible with what it could do, it needed to have room to grow into more ambitious project concepts and ideas, and it needed to do so in as easy to use fashion as possible. The goal was to create a universal learning platform, that students of any age could expand on and tinker with, while learning new concepts such as programming, electronics, and computing. Naturally, once the hardware was developed, the only real choice of operating system was of course, Linux.

The versatility of Linux is legendary. This incredible core OS is so malleable that it can be steered toward near any aspect of computing, from supercomputing to robotics, the space industry to more terrestrial engineering; education and science, manufacturing and the Internet. Think of an industry, and you will likely find a Linux installation somewhere in the background keeping it all together.



Raspberry Pi OS is the recommended operating system for the Raspberry Pi, a customised Debian-based distribution that comes packed with a collection of useful tools that cater for coding, electronics, and general desktop computing duties. Alongside the apps are pre-loaded modules to help get the most from each of the programming languages you decide to learn and use, as well as software to hardware modules that will enable you to power and use the hardware specific items unique to the Pi. For example, there are Python modules that interact with the Raspberry Pi's 40-pin GPIO, allowing you to create content for any of the Hardware Attached on Top devices.

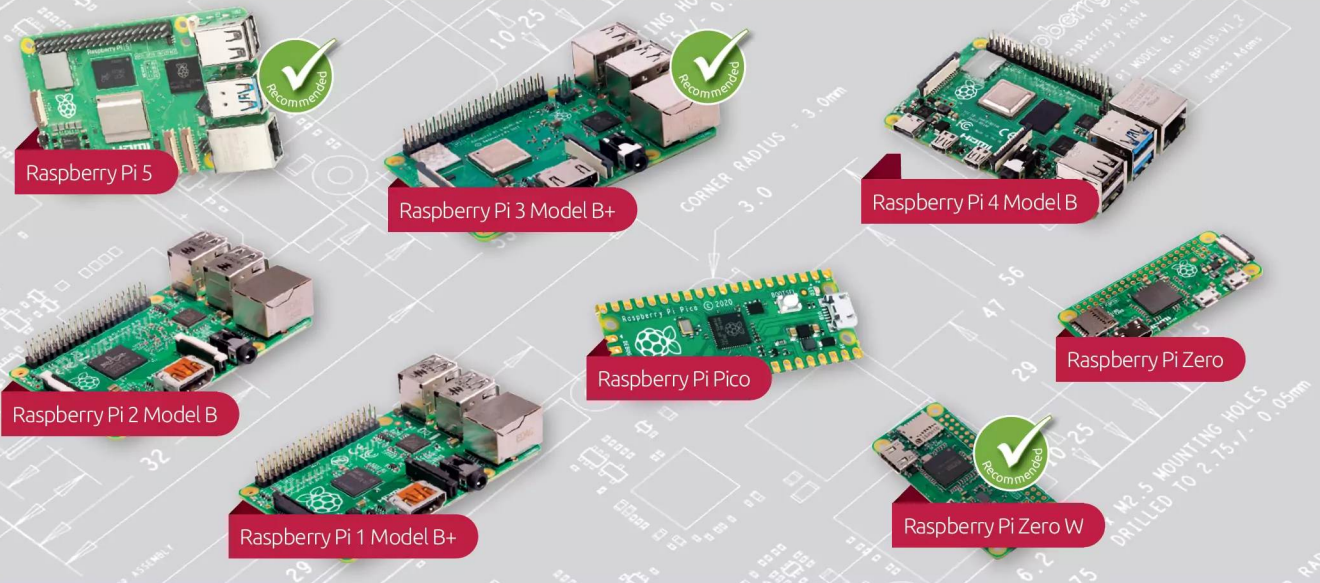
This combination is what makes the Raspberry Pi an excellent base of operations to learn not only coding on, but also Linux in general. Raspberry Pi OS, being Debian-based, will be able to run any of the Terminal commands listed in this book, as Linux Mint and even Ubuntu are also Debian-based. And since the Raspberry is so small, and costs very little setup, you're able to have both your regular, Windows or macOS computers, and have a Raspberry Pi as a headless (a powered device that doesn't need a keyboard, mouse or monitor attached, as you connect to it remotely) computer from which you can connect to and learn how to use Linux and how to code.



WHICH PI?

There are several Raspberry Pi models available, with each offering something slightly different from the others. The most recent Pi released is the Raspberry Pi 5, and while this model is slightly more expensive than some of the other examples, it is the most powerful and feature-rich Pi available.

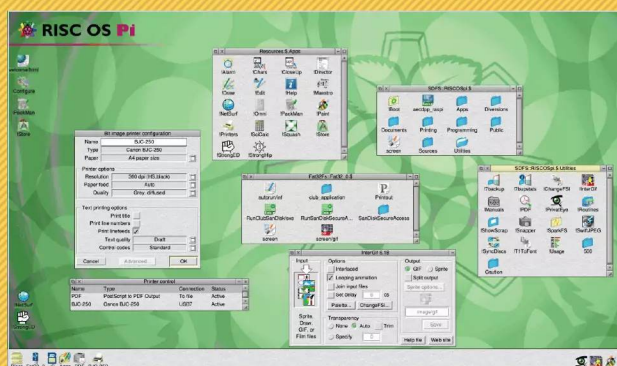
Overall, it's probably best to start experimenting with the Pi using the Pi 3 Model B+, then moving on to one of the other models as you develop your skills and focus on a particular project, such as the need to use one of the Pi Zero models, with a smaller footprint and WiFi enabled connectivity.



BEYOND RASPBERRY PI OS

The flexibility of the Raspberry Pi's ARM processor means that it's capable of running other operating systems beyond Raspbian. Still keeping with Linux, you can instead install Ubuntu MATE, Pidora (a Fedora-based distribution), Lakka, PiPlay (a retro emulation distribution) and Arch Linux ARM. There are also systems based loosely on the Linux kernel, such as Android, Minibian, and Chromium OS.

There's Windows 10 IoT Core, FreeBSD, RISC OS Pi, Plan 9 and, remarkably, AROS – an Amiga OS clone. Needless to say, that once you've finished experimenting with one version of Linux, just as you would with a desktop version of Linux, you can hop to another on the Raspberry Pi and see how that one works, and whether it will work for you.



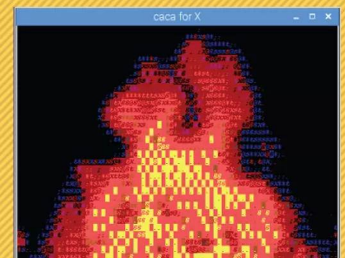
PI, LINUX AND CODING

As previously mentioned, the Raspberry Pi is an excellent code base, and with Linux as the backbone you're able to start learning how to code in a multitude of different programming languages.

Bash scripting works perfectly, since Raspberry Pi OS is Linux, and Debian-based, and you can easily expand your scripts to encompass much of the Pi's functionality. Aside from creating backup scripts, you can also create scripts that can access the GPIO pins on the Pi, and in so be able to control LEDs, and even more complex HATs.

Python is by far the most popular choice for beginners, and Raspbian comes pre-installed with everything you will need to get the most from your Python experience. There are countless pre-loaded modules, as well as the most recent stable release of the language.

C++ is one of the most powerful programming languages to learn. It's used for games, apps, and even entire operating systems. The Raspberry Pi comes with a great C++ editor, that's easy to use and can help you develop amazing content. Whichever way you decide to take your coding and Linux adventure, the Raspberry Pi is an excellent platform from which to begin on.





Command Line Quick Reference

When you start using Linux full time, you will quickly realise that the graphical interfaces of Ubuntu, Mint, etc. are great for many tasks but not great for all tasks. Understanding how to use the command line not only builds your understanding of Linux but also improves your knowledge of coding and programming in general. Our command line quick reference guide is designed to help you master Linux quicker.

TOP 10 COMMANDS

These may not be the most common commands used by everyone but they will certainly feature frequently for many users of Linux and the command line.

cd

The **cd** command is one of the commands you will use the most at the command line in Linux. It allows you to change your working directory. You use it to move around within the hierarchy of your file system. You can also use **chdir**.

mv

The **mv** command moves a file to a different location or renames a file. For example **mv file sub** renames the original file to **sub**. **mv sub ~/Desktop** moves the file 'sub' to your desktop directory but does not rename it. You must specify a new filename to rename a file.

ls

The **ls** command shows you the files in your current directory. Used with certain options, it lets you see file sizes, when files were created and file permissions. For example, **ls ~** shows you the files that are in your home directory.

chown

The **chown** command changes the user and/or group ownership of each given file. If only an owner (a user name or numeric user ID) is given, that user is made the owner of each given file, and the file's group is not changed.

cp

The **cp** command is used to make copies of files and directories. For example, **cp file sub** makes an exact copy of the file whose name you entered and names the copy **sub** but the first file will still exist with its original name.

chmod

The **chmod** command changes the permissions on the files listed. Permissions are based on a fairly simple model. You can set permissions for user, group and world and you can set whether each can read, write and/or execute the file.

pwd

The **pwd** command prints the full pathname of the current working directory (**pwd** stands for "print working directory"). Note that the GNOME terminal also displays this information in the title bar of its window.

rm

The **rm** command removes (deletes) files or directories. The removal process unlinks a filename in a filesystem from data on the storage device and marks that space as usable by future writes. In other words, removing files increases the amount of available space on your disk.

clear

The **clear** command clears your screen if this is possible. It looks in the environment for the terminal type and then in the terminfo database to figure out how to clear the screen. This is equivalent to typing Control-L when using the bash shell.

mkdir

Short for "make directory", **mkdir** is used to create directories on a file system, if the specified directory does not already exist. For example, **mkdir work** creates a work directory. More than one directory may be specified when calling **mkdir**.



C:\Commonly_Used_Commands

USEFUL HELP/INFO COMMANDS

The following commands are useful for when you are trying to learn more about the system or program you are working with in Linux. You might not need them every day, but when you do, they will be invaluable.

free

The `free` command displays the total amount of free and used physical and swap memory in the system. For example, `free -m` gives the information using megabytes.

sed

The `sed` command opens a stream editor. A stream editor is used to perform text transformations on an input stream: a file or input from a pipeline.

df

The `df` command displays filesystem disk space usage for all partitions. The command `df -h` is probably the most useful (the `-h` means human-readable).

adduser

The `adduser` command adds a new user to the system. Similarly, the `addgroup` command adds a new group to the system.

top

The `top` program provides a dynamic real-time view of a running system. It can display system summary information, as well as a list of processes.

deluser

The `deluser` command removes a user from the system. To remove the user's files and home directory, you need to add the `-remove-home` option.

uname-a

The `uname` command with the `-a` option prints all system information, including machine name, kernel name, version and a few other details.

delgroup

The `delgroup` command removes a group from the system. You cannot remove a group that is the primary group of any users.

ps

The `ps` command allows you to view all the processes running on the machine. Every operating system's version of `ps` is slightly different but all do the same thing.

man man

The `man man` command brings up the manual entry for the `man` command, which is a great place to start when using it.

grep

The `grep` command allows you to search inside a number of files for a particular search pattern and then print matching lines. An example would be: `grep blah file`.

man intro

The `man intro` command is especially useful. It displays the Introduction to User Commands, which is a well written, fairly brief introduction to the Linux command line.



A-Z of Linux Commands

There are literally thousands of Linux commands, so while this is not a complete A-Z, it does contain many of the commands you will most likely need. You will probably find that you end up using a smaller set of commands over and over again but having an overall knowledge is still very useful.

A

adduser	Add a new user
arch	Print machine architecture
awk	Find and replace text within file(s)

B

bc	An arbitrary precision calculator language
-----------	--

C

cat	Concatenate files and print on the standard output
chdir	Change working directory
chgrp	Change the group ownership of files
chroot	Change root directory
cksum	Print CRC checksum and byte counts
cmp	Compare two files
comm	Compare two sorted files line by line
cp	Copy one or more files to another location
crontab	Schedule a command to run at a later time
csplit	Split a file into context-determined pieces
cut	Divide a file into several parts

D

date	Display or change the date & time
dc	Desk calculator

dd

dd	Data Dump, convert and copy a file
-----------	------------------------------------

diff

diff	Display the differences between two files
-------------	---

dirname

dirname	Convert a full path name to just a path
----------------	---

du

du	Estimate file space usage
-----------	---------------------------

E

echo	Display message on screen
-------------	---------------------------

ed

ed	A line oriented text editor (edlin)
-----------	-------------------------------------

egrep

egrep	Search file(s) for lines that match an extended expression
--------------	--

env

env	Display, set or remove environment variables
------------	--

expand

expand	Convert tabs to spaces
---------------	------------------------

expr

expr	Evaluate expressions
-------------	----------------------

F

factor	Print prime factors
---------------	---------------------

fdisk

fdisk	Partition table manipulator for Linux
--------------	---------------------------------------

fgrep

fgrep	Search file(s) for lines that match a fixed string
--------------	--

find

find	Search for files that meet a desired criteria
-------------	---

fmt

fmt	Reformat paragraph text
------------	-------------------------

fold

fold	Wrap text to fit a specified width
-------------	------------------------------------

format

format	Format disks or tapes
---------------	-----------------------

fsck

fsck	Filesystem consistency check and repair
-------------	---

G

gawk	Find and Replace text within file(s)
-------------	--------------------------------------

grep	Search file(s) for lines that match a given pattern
-------------	---

groups	Print group names a user is in
---------------	--------------------------------

gzip	Compress or decompress named file(s)
-------------	--------------------------------------

H

head	Output the first part of file(s)
-------------	----------------------------------

hostname	Print or set system name
-----------------	--------------------------

I

id	Print user and group ids
-----------	--------------------------

info	Help info
-------------	-----------

install	Copy files and set attributes
----------------	-------------------------------

J

join	Join lines on a common field
-------------	------------------------------

K

kill	Stop a process from running
-------------	-----------------------------

L

less	Display output one screen at a time
-------------	-------------------------------------

ln	Make links between files
-----------	--------------------------

locate	Find files
---------------	------------



logname	Print current login name
lpc	Line printer control program
lpr	Off line print
lprm	Remove jobs from the print queue

M

man	See Help manual
mkdir	Create new folder(s)
mkfifo	Make FIFOs (named pipes)
mknod	Make block or character special files
more	Display output one screen at a time
mount	Mount a file system

N

nice	Set the priority of a command or job
nl	Number lines and write files
nohup	Run a command immune to hangups

P

passwd	Modify a user password
paste	Merge lines of files
pathchk	Check file name portability
pr	Convert text files for printing
printcap	Printer capability database
printenv	Print environment variables
printf	Format and print data

Q

quota	Display disk usage and limits
quotacheck	Scan a file system for disk usage
quotactl	Set disk quotas

R

ram	Ram disk device
------------	-----------------

rcp	Copy files between two machines
rm	Remove files
rmdir	Remove folder(s)
rpm	Remote Package Manager
rsync	Remote file copy (synchronise file trees)

S

screen	Terminal window manager
sdiff	Merge two files interactively
select	Accept keyboard input
seq	Print numeric sequences
shutdown	Shutdown or restart linux
sleep	Delay for a specified time
sort	Sort text files
split	Split a file into fixed-size pieces
su	Substitute user identity
sum	Print a checksum for a file
symlink	Make a new name for a file
sync	Synchronise data on disk with memory

T

tac	Concatenate and write files in reverse
tail	Output the last part of files
tar	Tape Archiver
tee	Redirect output to multiple files
test	Evaluate a conditional expression
time	Measure Program Resource Use
touch	Change file timestamps
top	List processes running on the system
traceroute	Trace Route to Host
tr	Translate, squeeze and or delete characters
tsort	Topological sort

U

umount	Unmount a device
unexpand	Convert spaces to tabs
uniq	Uniquify files
units	Convert units from one scale to another
unshar	Unpack shell archive scripts
useradd	Create new user account
usermod	Modify user account
users	List users currently logged in

V

vdirc	Verbosely list directory contents ('ls -l -b')
--------------	--

W

watch	Execute or display a program periodically
wc	Print byte, word, and line counts
whereis	Report all known instances of a command
which	Locate a program file in the user's path
who	Print all usernames currently logged in
whoami	Print the current user id and name

X

xargs	Execute utility, passing constructed argument list(s)
--------------	---

Y

yes	Print a string until interrupted
------------	----------------------------------





DID YOU KNOW...

that NASA's state-of-the-art supercomputing cluster, Pleiades, is powered by Linux? Pleiades consists of 160 racks (11,440 nodes), 245,536 CPU cores, a total memory count of 935TB, 184,320 NVIDIA CUDA cores, and over six miles of fibre optic cabling.

At the heart of it lies a complex setup of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, along with many custom development packages and other software unique

to NASA's projects. The projects NASA's Advanced Supercomputing Division uses Pleiades for are: The Kepler Mission – searching for extra-solar Earth-like planets; CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) modelling to help create more efficient space launch systems; Dark Matter research and simulation; and visualisation of Earth's ocean currents, building data for the ECCO (Estimating the Circulation and Climate of the Ocean) Project.



NASA's Linux-powered supercomputer, Pleiades. Currently ranked the 11th most powerful in the world.



Good enough
for **NASA**

sgi

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