



Where Google Chrome Is Installed via `apt install`

When you install Google Chrome on a Linux system (such as Ubuntu) using `apt install`, the main binary and related files are placed in standard system directories.

Main Binary Location

- The primary executable for Google Chrome is placed at:
 - `/usr/bin/google-chrome`
 - `/usr/bin/google-chrome-stable`

You can launch Chrome from the terminal using either of these commands, depending on your system and the version installed [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#).

Additional Files

- **Man Pages:**
 - `/usr/share/man/man1/google-chrome.1.gz`
 - `/usr/share/man/man1/google-chrome-stable.1.gz`
- **Application Data:**
 - Application icons, desktop entries, and other resources are typically installed in `/usr/share/applications/` and `/usr/share/icons/`.

How to Verify the Installation Path

To confirm the location of the Chrome binary, you can run:

```
which google-chrome
```

or

```
whereis google-chrome
```

Both commands should return `/usr/bin/google-chrome` as the main executable path [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#).

Summary Table

File/Directory	Purpose
<code>/usr/bin/google-chrome</code>	Main Chrome binary [1] [2]
<code>/usr/bin/google-chrome-stable</code>	Stable channel binary [1]
<code>/usr/share/man/man1/google-chrome.1.gz</code>	Manual page [1] [2]
<code>/usr/share/applications/</code>	Desktop entry
<code>/usr/share/icons/</code>	Application icons

Notes

- The actual browser data (user profiles, cache, etc.) is stored in your home directory under `~/.config/google-chrome/`, not in the system binary path^{[1] [2]}.
- If you installed Chrome using a `.deb` package and `apt install`, the paths above will apply to most Debian-based distributions, including Ubuntu^{[1] [3] [2]}.

You can always launch Chrome from the application menu or by running `google-chrome` in your terminal^{[1] [2]}.

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And if I installed Chrome with flatpak, where does it store the files?

When you install Google Chrome using Flatpak, its files are stored in locations specific to the Flatpak system, which differs from traditional package managers like `apt`.

Main Installation Locations

System-wide installation:

- Application files: `/var/lib/flatpak/app/com.google.Chrome/`
- Exported binaries (for all users): `/var/lib/flatpak/exports/bin/`
- Desktop entries and icons: `/var/lib/flatpak/exports/share/`

Per-user installation:

- Application files: `~/.local/share/flatpak/app/com.google.Chrome/`
- Exported binaries (for just your user): `~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/`
- Desktop entries and icons: `~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/share/`

Running the Chrome Flatpak

Flatpak does not place executables directly in your system's standard `PATH` by default. Instead, you typically launch Chrome with:

```
flatpak run com.google.Chrome
```

If you want to find the full path to the Flatpak-exposed binary, check `/var/lib/flatpak/exports/bin/` or `~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/`^[4].

User Data and Configuration

- Chrome's user data (profiles, cache, settings) is stored in:
`~/.var/app/com.google.Chrome/`
For example, configuration files and user data are found in subdirectories like:
`~/.var/app/com.google.Chrome/config/` and `~/.var/app/com.google.Chrome/data/`^{[5] [6]}.

How to Check the Exact Location

You can use this command to see the install location for any Flatpak app:

```
flatpak info --show-location com.google.Chrome
```

This will display the directory where the app's files are stored^[7].

Summary Table

Purpose	System-wide Path	Per-user Path
App files	/var/lib/flatpak/app/com.google.Chrome/	~/.local/share/flatpak/app/com.google.Chrome/
Exported binaries	/var/lib/flatpak/exports/bin/	~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/
User data/configuration	N/A	~/.var/app/com.google.Chrome/

Note:

- Flatpak apps are sandboxed, so their access to your filesystem is limited by default. User data and settings are kept separate from the main app files^[8] ^[5].
- You should not manually modify files inside the Flatpak app directories^[7].

This structure helps keep Flatpak apps isolated and easy to manage compared to traditional package installations.

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Creating a Symbolic Link for Google Chrome Flatpak

If you want to run Google Chrome (installed via Flatpak) from the terminal using a simple command like `google-chrome`, you can create a symbolic link (symlink) pointing to the Flatpak-exported binary.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Locate the Flatpak Binary

For a per-user Flatpak install, the binary is typically found at:

```
~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/com.google.Chrome
```

For a system-wide install, it would be:

```
/var/lib/flatpak/exports/bin/com.google.Chrome
```

Confirm the path exists for your installation.

2. Choose a Directory in Your PATH

To make the command available in your terminal, create the symlink in a directory that's already in your PATH, such as `~/.local/bin`. If this directory doesn't exist, create it:

```
mkdir -p ~/.local/bin
```

3. Create the Symlink

Run the following command to create a symlink named `google-chrome`:

```
ln -s ~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/com.google.Chrome ~/.local/bin/google-chrome
```

If you installed system-wide, adjust the source path accordingly.

4. Ensure `~/.local/bin` is in Your PATH

Add this line to your `~/.bashrc`, `~/.zshrc`, or equivalent shell config if it's not already present:

```
export PATH="$HOME/.local/bin:$PATH"
```

Then reload your shell configuration:

```
source ~/.bashrc
```

5. Test the Command

Now you can launch Google Chrome from the terminal with:

```
google-chrome
```

Summary Table

Action	Command/Path
Flatpak binary path	<code>~/.local/share/flatpak/exports/bin/com.google.Chrome</code>
Symlink location	<code>~/.local/bin/google-chrome</code>
Create symlink	<code>ln -s [source] [target]</code>
Add to PATH	<code>export PATH="\$HOME/.local/bin:\$PATH"</code>

Notes

- This method works for any Flatpak app; just adjust the binary name as needed.
- The symlink simply points to the Flatpak launcher, which in turn runs the app in its sandbox^[9] ^[10].

By following these steps, you can conveniently launch Google Chrome from your terminal using the `google-chrome` command^[9].

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1. <https://askubuntu.com/questions/1046848/how-to-find-the-path-of-a-specific-application-google-chrome>
2. <https://askubuntu.com/questions/708581/have-installed-chrome-on-ubuntu-however-cannot-find-where-to-run-it>
3. <https://www.omgubuntu.co.uk/how-to-install-google-chrome-on-ubuntu>
4. <https://askubuntu.com/questions/1417313/can-not-find-executable-path-of-flatpak-apps>
5. <https://unix.stackexchange.com/questions/697213/where-do-flatpak-packages-store-their-configuration-files>
6. <https://forums.gentoo.org/viewtopic-p-8793427.html?sid=ba15513e63c2aa7fe1ca3f8583d76ee6>
7. https://www.reddit.com/r/flatpak/comments/f6uq3z/where_are_flatpaksflatpak_apps_installed/
8. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/72605372/chrome-doesnt-see-most-of-the-local-files>
9. <https://justingarrison.com/blog/2023-03-19-launch-flatpak-app/>
10. <https://discourse.flathub.org/t/how-to-add-symbolic-link-to-an-external-package/9757>