

Headless Setup with Ubuntu Mate



- If you want to setup with **Ubuntu Minimal**, please refer to this guide.
 - [Build an Ubuntu NAS](#)

This is a step-by-step guide of how to test ODROID boards.

It assumes that you want to run **headless**, that is, access it via network connections without a keyboard or display.

This guide is based on **Hardkernel's Ubuntu Mate** environment.

Assumptions

You **HAVE**:

- ODROID-XU4/HC1/HC2
- SD card or eMMC (installed **Ubuntu Mate**)
- Ethernet cable
- Linux PC
- A switching hub
- DHCP network

You do **NOT** have:

- USB keyboard
- USB-UART Module Kit
- HDMI cable/monitor

Boot the ODROID and find IP address

Connect the ODROID to a spare Ethernet port on your switching hub using an Ethernet cable.

Insert the SD card (or eMMC) into the ODROID-XU4.

Turn on the ODROID-XU4 and it will run the root file system resizing process automatically.

After resizing process, it will shutdown and the blue LED is off within 5~20 seconds.

Press power button again and the heartbeat blue LED keeps flashing.

By GUI

- [How to use the Angry IP Scanner for finding ODROID's IP Address](#)

By console command

Ping scan to update ARP table:

host

```
brian@brian-desktop:~$ nmap -sn 192.168.100.0/24
Starting Nmap 7.01 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2016-05-17 15:09 KST
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.1
Host is up (0.00066s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.2
Host is up (0.000084s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.3
Host is up (0.00046s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.53
Host is up (0.00066s latency).
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.68
Host is up (0.095s latency).
Nmap done: 256 IP addresses (5 hosts up) scanned in 2.43 seconds
```

Check the ODROID-XU4 IP address: (NOTE: "00:1e:06" is start MAC address for ODROID boards.)

host

```
brian@brian-desktop:~$ arp -a | grep 00:1e:06
? (192.168.100.53) at 00:1e:06:33:0d:45 [ether] on enp0s25
```

Login using SSH

On your Linux PC, type "**ssh odroid@xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx**", where "**xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx**" is the IP address you discovered in the previous step.

It will then prompt for your password.

Type in the default password: **odroid**

host

```
brian@brian-desktop:~$ ssh odroid@192.168.100.8
The authenticity of host '192.168.100.8 (192.168.100.8)' can't be
established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is
SHA256:BCqiwdtSViF0SAbgNHw35avUv0THikW+fx7N4v+Lv0.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.100.8' (ECDSA) to the list of known
```

```
hosts.  
odroid@192.168.100.8's password:  
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.14.28-124 armv7l)  
  
* Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com  
* Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com  
* Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage  
  
0 packages can be updated.  
0 updates are security updates.  
  
Last login: Tue Mar 20 07:39:48 2018 from 192.168.100.2  
odroid@odroid:~$
```

Setup Ubuntu Mate local auto-login

In a headless system, you may want to let the X server automatically login. This is done differently in various versions of Ubuntu, unfortunately. For Ubuntu Mate 18.04, create a new file in `/etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf.d/12-autologin.conf` using

```
sudo vi /etc/lightdm/lightdm.conf.d/12-autologin.conf
```

. The file should look as follows. Substitute your chosen userid :

```
[SeatDefaults]  
autologin-user=odroid  
autologin-user-timeout=0
```

Then, you can restart the X server with :

```
sudo service lightdm restart
```

Ubuntu Mate will then no longer prompt for user login.

VNC Remote Desktop



- Make sure **Ubuntu MATE installed** before following this guide. An minimal image hasn't necessary dependencies including X11 to start VNC server.

Connect to the ODROID-XU4 using SSH.

host

```
brian@brian-desktop:~$ ssh odroid@192.168.100.8
```

```
The authenticity of host '192.168.100.8 (192.168.100.8)' can't be
established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is
SHA256:BCqiWzdtSViF0SAbgNHw35avUv0THikW+fx7N4v+Lv0.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '192.168.100.8' (ECDSA) to the list of known
hosts.
odroid@192.168.100.8's password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.14.28-124 armv7l)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

Last login: Tue Mar 20 07:39:48 2018 from 192.168.100.2
odroid@odroid:~$
```

Install **VNC server** using **apt** package management. At the first boot, the dpkg lock may be in use, and you might not be able to run apt update while initial updates run in the background. If you run into this, you can initiate a second reboot, which will wait for a while until these updates load, and then run :

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ sudo apt update
odroid@odroid:~$ sudo apt install x11vnc
```

Run VNC server.

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ x11vnc -display :0 -auth guess
```

Connect to the ODROID-XU4 VNC server from your Linux PC.



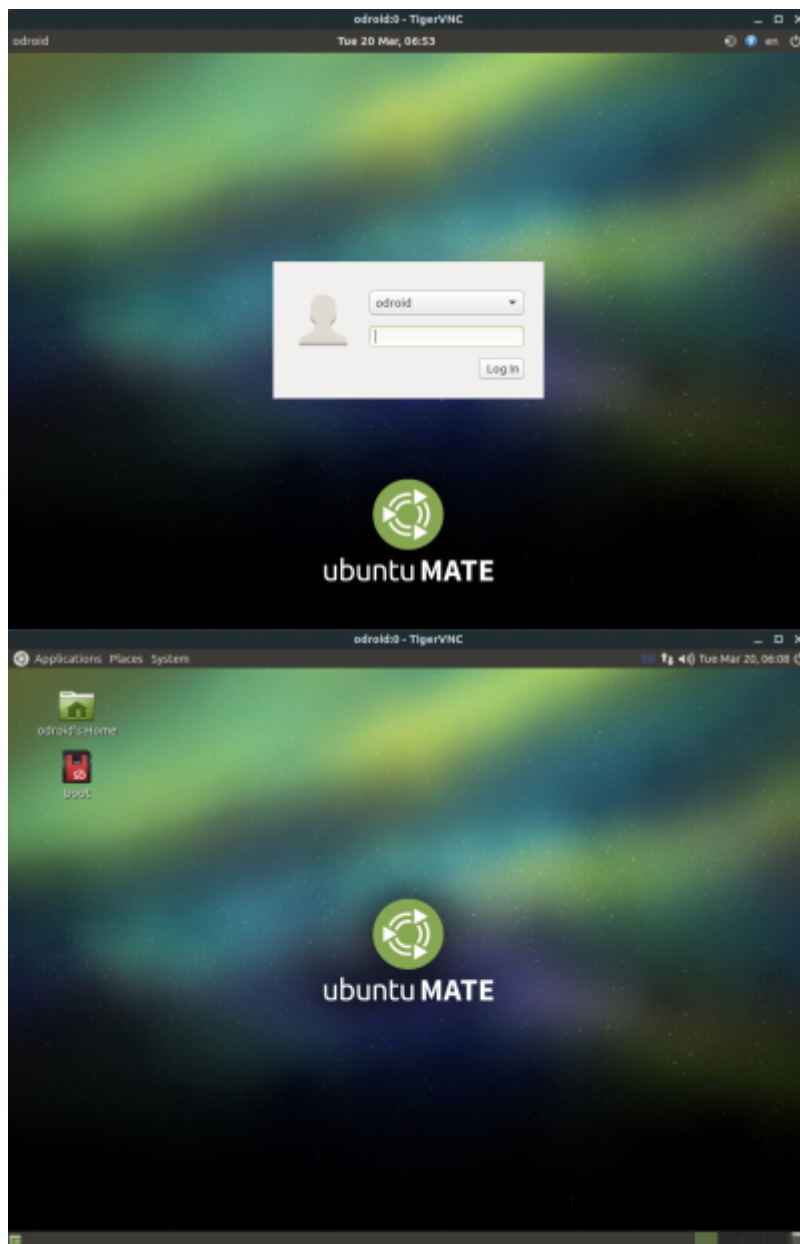
host

- If you don't have any VNC Viewer, enter below to install.

```
brian@brian-desktop:~$ sudo apt install tigervnc-viewer
```

host

```
# usage: vncviewer {ODROID_IP}  
brian@brian-desktop:~$ vncviewer 192.168.100.8
```



Change resolution

There are several methods you can use to change the resolution. Both involve editing configuration files.



- Thanks to @Priba for this useful information.
 - <https://forum.odroid.com/viewtopic.php?f=99&t=14979#p124929>
- Another way to change. Thanks to @madbrain.
 - <https://forum.odroid.com/viewtopic.php?f=95&t=29987>

Change resolution in xorg.conf

You can change resolution by editing **/etc/X11/xorg.conf** file.

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ sudo vi /etc/X11/xorg.conf
```

Append this to the end. See **DefaultDepth** and **Virtual** parts.

```
Section "Screen"
    Identifier      "Default Screen"
    Device          "Mali-Fbdev"
    DefaultDepth    24
    SubSection "Display"
        Virtual 1920 1080
    EndSubSection
EndSection
```

Change resolution in boot.ini

Instead of editing xorg.conf, you can also choose to setup headless mode for the integrated GPU at boot time. When no display is attached, the GPU will default to 1024×768. You can force it to another resolution.

```
sudo vi /media/boot/boot.ini
```

Uncomment the following line to select 1920×1080 for example. You can choose another mode, but make sure to choose one that's listed as "no_edid" in the comments :

```
setenv videoconfig "drm_kms_helper.edid_firmware=edid/1920x1080.bin"
```

And also change :

```
setenv HPD "true"
```

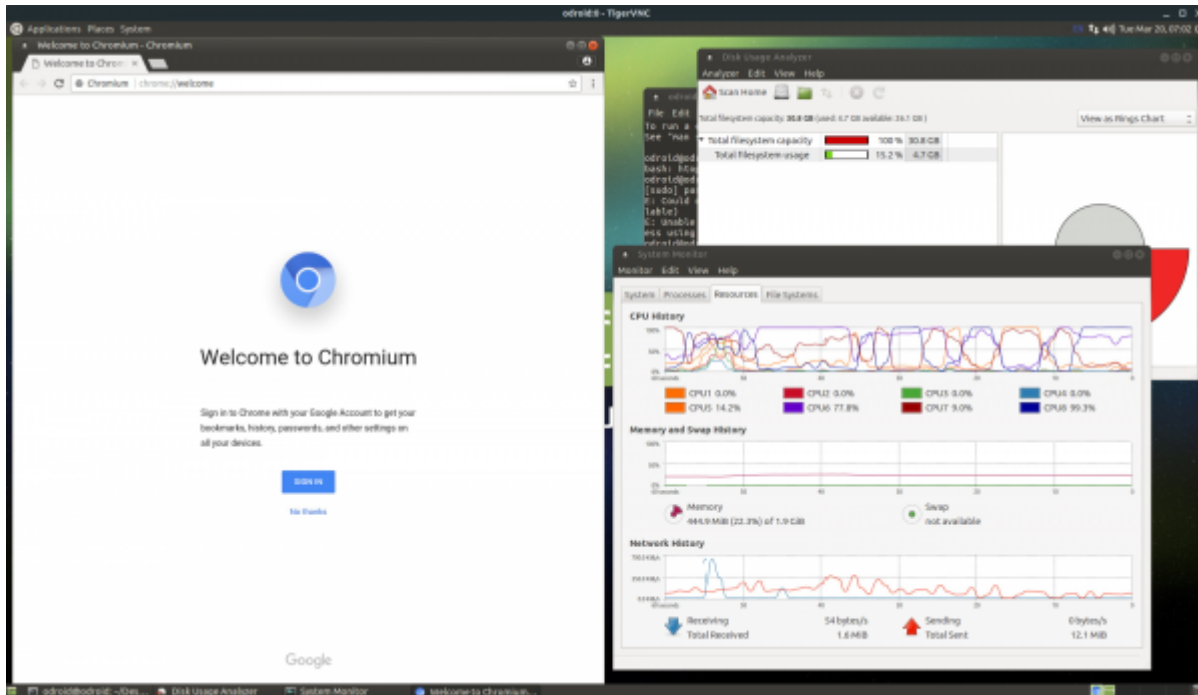
to

```
setenv HPD "false"
```

Then issue :

```
sudo reboot
```

Start VNC server and connect



Install x11vnc server as a service

Once you have the x11vnc server running successfully, you may want to run it as a service so that it automatically starts on boot. If so, create a new file called **/etc/systemd/system/x11vnc.service** using the command

```
vi/etc/systemd/system/x11vnc.service
```

The file should look as follows. You may edit your userid, port, and password file.

```
[Unit]
Description=x11vnc
After=display-manager.service

[Service]
Type=simple
Environment=DISPLAY=:0
User=odroid
ExecStart=/usr/bin/x11vnc -loop -forever -bg -rfbport 5900 -xkb -noxrecord -
noxfixes -noxdamage -shared -norc -auth /run/user/120/gdm/Xauthority -
rfbauth /home/odroid/.vnc/passwd
Restart=always
RestartSec=1

[Install]
WantedBy=graphical.target
```

Then, add it as a systemd service, and start it :

```
sudo systemctl enable x11vnc.service
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl start x11vnc.service
```

Troubleshooting

If you face a problem with starting VNC server using command the below,

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ x11vnc -display :0 -auth guess
```

You can try out by finding out exact paths for those parameters, **-display** and **-auth**.

Enter the following command to find out current running X-window with its parameters.

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ sudo ps -ef | grep X
root      630    602    0 01:32 tty7      00:00:03 /usr/lib/xorg/Xorg -
core :0 -seat seat0 -auth /var/run/lightdm/root/:0 -nolisten tcp vt7 -
novtswitch
root      1266   1006    0 01:38 pts/0      00:00:00 grep --color=auto X
```

From that results, **:0** is the current display on the board and **/var/run/lightdm/root/:0** is the current auth file path. So you can enter,

target

```
odroid@odroid:~$ x11vnc -display :0 -auth /var/run/lightdm/root/:0
```

to open VNC server.

From:

<https://wiki.odroid.com/> - **ODROID Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://wiki.odroid.com/odroid-xu4/application_note/software/headless_setup

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