LINUX | Mint

[(Download)](#)

SYSTEM CONFIGURATION
- Panel: Mint does not launch with a "show desktop feature" like Windows.
    - To add this feature, go to the Panel settings, then items, and add the "Show Desktop" feature.
    - You can then right click it and move it to your desired location, the bottom right.

- Power Manager: The "System" tab needs to be suspended for 15 minutes and the "Display" tab needs to be deactivated as it doesn't work with all hardware.
    - These power manager settings may be the default.

- Window Manager: Mint does not install with the same tile options as Windows.
    - To set this preference, go to the Window Manager's keyboard settings and change the tile window options to your preference, super + directional.
    - Note that these changes, upon confirmation, will remove the default "xfce4-popup-whiskermenu" launch command in the Keyboard's "Application Shortcut" settings.

- Screenshot: By default, Mint requires you to manually choose a selection mode (e.g., region, window, full screen) before taking a screenshot, rather than immediately letting you select an area.
    - To enable direct region selection, modify the screenshot shortcut in the Keyboard's "Application Shortcuts" settings by replacing the default command with "xfce4-screenshooter -r."
    - Note that after applying this change, the original xfce4-screenshooter command will be removed from the "Application Shortcuts" settings.

- Secure Boot: The "Secure Boot" feature in the BIOS blocks Nvidia drivers from being accessed.
    - For Alienware products, you need to press the F2 key on startup to get to the BIOS settings.
    - In the security tab, you need to go to Secure Boot settings and deactivate this feature.

- Driver Manager: The default, open-source, driver (Nouveau) is not compatible with many software types, like gaming.
    - The latest recommended driver in Driver Manager should be equipped and the computer restarted.

- Audio: After you disable Secure Boot and update your driver, you may not have audio in some programs.
    - apt purge pipewire pipewire-bin
    - systemctl enable --user pulseaudio
    - sudo reboot

- ▪ [PulseAudio Restore](#)

- Controller: There are two methods to set up an Xbox Controller on Linux: xone, which requires an Xbox dongle to function, and xpadneo, which does not.
  - o Option 1: xpadneo
    - ▪ [xpadneo, see installer commands](#)
  - o Option 2: xone
    - ▪ [xone, see guide instructions](#)

BROWSER PREFERENCES:
- Brave
  - o Homepage: In Brave's Settings, Appearance, Show Home Button > List Homepage URL.
  - o Homepage: From Getting Started, New Tab Page, New Tab Page Shows > Homepage.
  - o Theme: In Settings, Appearance, Brave Colors > Dark.
  - o Search Engine: In Settings, Search Engine, Normal & Private Window > (Set Preference).
  - o Autoscrolling: At brave://flags/, Middle button autoscroll > Enabled.
- Librewolf
- Firefox
  - o Settings: General > Enable Autoscrolling & Set Default Browser.
  - o Firefox Extensions: ClearURLs, Privacy Badger, uBlock Origin.

APPS, PROGRAMS, SOFTWARE:
Many of these can be installed with terminal commands, "sudo apt install [name]"
When both a Flatpak and a GitHub version are available, the GitHub option is preferred.
- Anki, (Flatpak)
  - o For notes and flashcards.
- AntiMicroX, (Flatpak & GitHub)
  - o Need to uncheck "Minimize to Taskbar" default.
- Bitwarden, (Flatpak)
- Deepseek, (Other)
- Discord, (Flatpak & Github)
- FreeTube, (Flatpak & GitHub)
  - o Settings: Theme > Dark, Green, Blue.
- Gnome Calendar, (Flatpak)
- Grok, (Other)
- HDtodayz, (Other)
  - o Soap2Day, (Other)
- Heroic Games Launcher, (Flatpak & GitHub)
- NightPDF, (Flatpak & Github)
  - o Use v2.0.0 on Github
- OBS Studio, (Flatpak & GitHub)
- OpenShot, (Flatpak & GitHub)
- PDFsam, (Flatpak & GitHub)
  - o Used to merge PDF documents.
- Shutter, (Flatpak & GitHub)
- Steam, (Flatpak)

- o Vulcan Shaders: To disable Vulcan Shader setups, go to Settings > Downloads > and set "Enable Shader Pre-caching" to off.
- o Compatibility: Once Steam is setup, go to Settings > Compatibility > and set "default compatibility tool" to the newest version.
- o Guide Launcher: Once controller is setup, go to Settings > Controller > and set "Guide Button Focuses Steam" to off.
- Synaptic Package Manager
- Virtualbox, (Flatpak)

SPECIAL SOFTWARE:
- ProtonVPN
  - o wget https://repo.protonvpn.com/debian/dists/stable/main/binary-all/protonvpn-stable-release_1.0.8_all.deb
  - o sudo dpkg -i ./protonvpn-stable-release_1.0.8_all.deb && sudo apt update
  - o sudo apt install proton-vpn-gnome-desktop
    - [ProtonVPN Download Instructions](#)

- xpadneo: Primary method for pairing the Xbox controller to the Linux system.
  - o sudo apt-get install dkms linux-headers-`uname -r`
  - o git clone https://github.com/atar-axis/xpadneo.git
  - o cd xpadneo
  - o sudo ./install.sh
  - o sudo bluetoothctl
    - [bluetooth]# scan on
      - Locate and copy the controller's Media Access Control [MAC] Address (Ex. 5C:BA:37:DA:25:FE), substituting these values below.
      - The following prompts may require extra loading time.
    - [bluetooth]# scan off
    - [bluetooth]# pair [MAC]
    - [bluetooth]# trust [MAC]
    - [bluetooth]# connect [MAC]

- xone: Secondary method for pairing the Xbox controller to the Linux system.
  - o *(Unplug Xbox devices.)*
    - git clone https://github.com/medusalix/xone
    - cd xone
    - sudo ./install.sh
    - sudo xone-get-firmware.sh
  - o *(Plug in Xbox devices.)*

LAUNCHER COMPATIBILITY:
- Heroic Game Launcher
  - o Download the game, right click, settings, select proton-latestopen ellipses, Add to Steam
  - o Go to the game's Heroic page, open the ellipses, Add to Steam
  - o Do not add compatibility layer to Heroic Launcher games that are executed within Steam.
- Steam
  - o Download the game, right click, settings, select Proton-hotfix

TERMINAL COMMANDS:
- Update Driver
  - sudo apt update
- System Update
  - sudo apt full-upgrade
- Update All Packages
  - sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
- Reset XFCE
  - sudo apt install --reinstall xfce4

SETTINGS UNDERGOING TESTING:
- Black Screen Fix Attempt: Disable your lock screen setting in Power Management's Security tab, Disable Light Locker, and set up XScreenSaver to lock the screen under "Blank Screen Only" mode at 15 minutes of inactivity.
  - In the future before changing time when the issue occurs against the suspend value.
- Install, Reset Linux Mint:
  - Linux Mint does not have a "factory reset" option.
    - To install or reset Linux Mint, you will need to (re)install the Mint OS manually via a bootable USB.
      - Start the computer with the USB connected, and enter the boot menu.
        - The boot menu can usually be accessed via the F12 key on Alienware systems during startup.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.
      - New Step.

NOTES:
- System Reports: To see your system and OS settings for troubleshooting, go to System Information within the System Reports application.
- Xkill: Pressing the ctrl, alt, and esc keys simultaneously results in the "xkill" command. This command force closes the next program clicked on.
- Terminal: The paste function works in the terminal.
- Requires the use of ctrl, shift, and v keys simultaneously.
- XFCE, or "X Face," is the smallest package for this distro.